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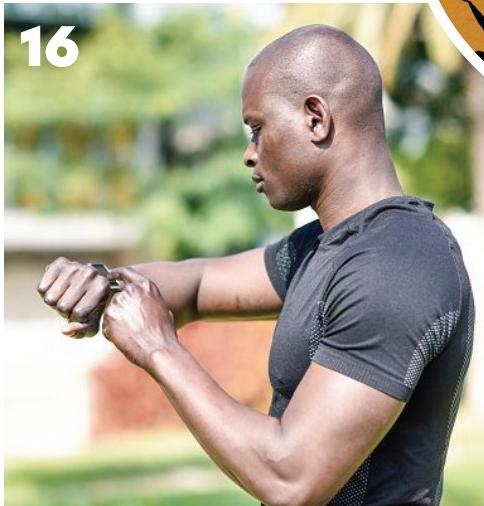
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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 1.8 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 12,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Henry Hill American Legion Post 385's Basketball Youth League keeps Philadelphia kids off the street and on a positive path.

By Steven B. Brooks

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National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford ends historic two-year term by thanking Afghanistan veterans, American Legion Family.

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Olympia's captain, crew barely survived a hurricane transporting a precious passenger back to America.

By J.R. Neubeiser

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The 1950 paper that shaped America's response to the Soviet challenge offers wisdom in navigating Cold War II.

By Alan W. Dowd

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Rural veterans need substantial federal investment in broadband.

By Ken Olsen

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Veterans Strengthening America

The pandemic has been miserable for most Americans. So is warfare. In both situations, those of us who have trained and served in the U.S.

Armed Forces are uniquely qualified to face challenges, delivering relief, protection and hope to the nation we swore with our lives to defend.

South Phoenix, Ariz., Post 65 Commander Alan "A.P." Powell put it best as members of his American Legion Family worked tirelessly to help the community during COVID. "If we have the ability," he said, "we have the responsibility."

Wartime veterans of The American Legion have applied military training, discipline and time-honored values to confront problems both sudden and continuous, in measures great and small, for over a century, around the world.

In 2020, the Legion's National Executive Committee adopted a motto you're going to hear often: *Veterans Strengthening America*. What is meant by those three words?

- We continue serving our communities, states and nation in times of trouble, whether it's a pandemic, a hurricane, a home lost to economic turmoil or the opportunity to help an unemployed veteran find a good job.
- Support for veterans in need is both a moral obligation and a national security measure to ensure that those who have served will not be forgotten after discharge.
- Pride in our nation, whose democracy was purchased through military sacrifice, depends on education; that's why we have such programs as American Legion Boys State, a national oratorical contest that teaches constitutional fluency, and a baseball program built on responsible citizenship.
- American Legion advocacy for a strong defense is vital to the prospect of lasting peace and security, at home and abroad.
- Expressions of honor and remembrance for military service and sacrifice are critical to remind the public, and ourselves, that freedom has never been free in America.

This Veterans Day, I ask you to consider the responsibility we share to strengthen our nation and the ability we possess to act on it, in good times and bad. And then do so.

THE AMERICAN Legion MAGAZINE

Veterans Strengthening America

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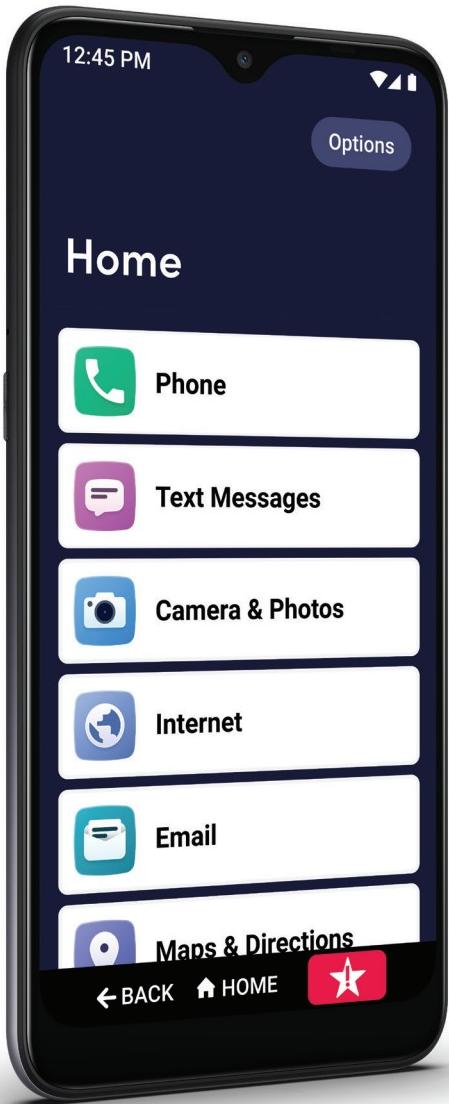
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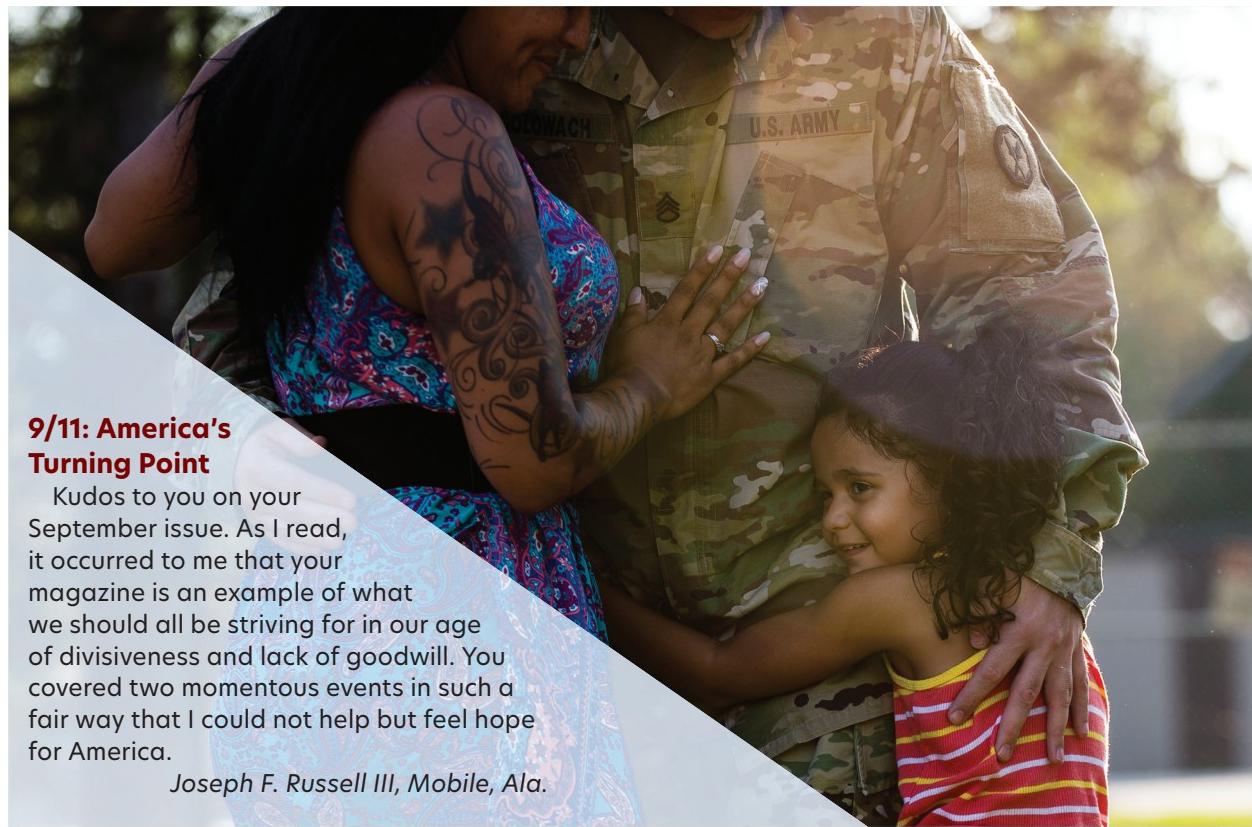
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9/11: America's Turning Point

Kudos to you on your September issue. As I read, it occurred to me that your magazine is an example of what we should all be striving for in our age of divisiveness and lack of goodwill. You covered two momentous events in such a fair way that I could not help but feel hope for America.

Joseph F. Russell III, Mobile, Ala.

A New Generation of Veteran

Regarding Matthew Amidon's article (September), I was in Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008 as NCOIC for a provincial reconstruction team (PRT), and was in charge of the local ASGs (Afghan Security Guards) assigned to the forward operating base. For the most part we had a good rotation, by working with the provincial governor and village elders as well as training the local ANP (Afghan National Police). Our PRT was one that seemed to make more headway with the locals than any before us, and was always being visited by dignitaries because of that. I was also the American in charge of the bazaar and worked hand in hand with many locals, ensuring that only authentic items were being sold.

I will say that my team, with me pushing, was able to help take a disabled Afghan soldier who could no longer serve (he was missing a leg) and spoke English very well, and get him a building, as he had six children to whom he was teaching English in an open field. Once in an actual classroom, his class exploded to approximately 60 kids, all learning English only. And their parents wanted them to learn it.

We had our down times, and what is currently happening saddens me. But I know what we did, as a whole, was well worth it. Would I do it again? I am unsure at this point. But I truly felt then, as well as



\$33,000 Funds raised by **American Legion Post 328 in Norco, Calif.**, for the family of Lance Cpl. Kareem Mae'Lee Grant Nikoui, a 2019 Norco High School graduate killed in an Aug. 26 suicide bomb attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. The post organized a pancake breakfast in fewer than 24 hours, serving more than 600 meals. "I feel like we're a military town where we wear our heart on our sleeve," Post 328 Commander Jen Turpin said. "We are Norco strong."

Veterans Strengthening America

How do you, your post, district or American Legion department strengthen America? Share your story at legion.org/legiontown under the Veterans Strengthening America category so others can see how the mission and motto of the organization comes to life in communities, states and the nation. legion.org/vsa

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now, that the war in Afghanistan is a holy-war scenario, and we all should know that neither we nor anyone else will ever win that style of war. I hope our 20 years of occupying that country will pay off.

Garry Murdock, Decatur, Ind.

History reveals positive outcomes to territorial wars, as in World War II (Japan's extension into South Pacific colonies and Nazi Germany into Russia), and in 1991's Desert Storm regarding Kuwait. But outcomes are drastically different in wars to bring change internally within nations, as in the Second Persian Gulf War (2003 to 2011) and the Afghanistan War just ending after 20 years. Matthew Amidon's Bush bias was clearly present in this article, which does not reflect the unwinnable conflicts in the latter. When, if ever, this lesson is learned, Americans will avoid the resulting unjustifiable sacrifices.

Richard Erickson, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Chosen

I enjoyed Jeff Stoffer's article about Sgt. Edward Younger selecting the World War I Unknown Soldier (Rapid Fire, September). It brought back memories of a similar ceremony aboard the heavy cruiser USS *Canberra* (CAG 2) in 1958: the choosing of the World War II and Korean conflict's Unknown Soldiers. As a crew member, I participated in the ceremony when Medal of Honor recipient William Charette (Korea, 1953) performed a similar selection.

The Unknown Soldiers were transported to the Capitol Rotunda, lying in state for two days before the entombment ceremony at Arlington. Ceremonies there and at the Tomb were elaborate and well attended, with President Dwight Eisenhower laying the wreath and Vice President Richard Nixon in attendance.

After ceremonies aboard *Canberra*, the ship got underway to deep water. Following a dignified service, the World War II unknown remains not chosen were removed from the casket and placed on a burial board port-side forward and again covered with the U.S. flag. When the officer conducting the service ordered the burial detail to "bury the dead," the board was tilted seaward and the remains, wrapped in an appropriate light material and weighted, slid from under the flag into the Atlantic, thus completing a very important part of our long military history.

After serving on five ships, *Canberra* was by far the best sea tour.

John Sanders, Franklin, N.C.

THE PLAYLIST

American Legion videos you don't want to miss.



Rowing in the same direction

An American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant supports Cleveland Freedom Rows, an all-veteran team that competed in the 2021 Head of the Cuyahoga Regatta in Ohio.

A helping hand after Hurricane Ida

The American Legion Department of Indiana gathers and delivers relief supplies to Louisiana after a devastating storm.

Flags of honor remember 9/11

Post 51 in West Salem, Wis., displays flags, pays homage on the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Running for heroes in Hillsdale, Mich.

Michigan Legionnaires pay tribute, show flags, and raise funds for local and New York first responders through the 9/11 anniversary "Tunnels to Towers" 5K event.

This We Believe

E. Roy Stone's famous 1994 statement on the identity of The American Legion expresses timeless values, recited by Department of South Carolina Past Adjutant Jimmy E. Hawk.

Visit legion.org/magazine/videos or subscribe to The American Legion's YouTube channel to see, show and share other American Legion videos.

No. 1 The American Legion Magazine has again been rated the "best read" magazine, according to independent auditor GfK MRI. In a survey of more than 150 U.S. magazines, American Legion Magazine readers reported reading at least three of the previous four issues 75% of the time. No other magazine was higher than 72%. And 67% of subscribers say they read four of the previous four issues.



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Whereas ...

Of the 16 million Americans serving in World War II, less than 1 million survive today ...

Those World War II veterans served honorably and continue to serve us today ...

Many of those veterans were in the VA system prior to activation of a means test or the setting up of the priority groups and some have subsequently been dropped from the VA system or are now being subjected to a means test ...

The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 was passed exempting all Spanish-American War and World War I veterans from the means test required by VA ...

Be it resolved,

The American Legion shall support legislation to amend the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 to extend the exemption from a means test to World War II veterans; and ... that VA be urged to place all World War II veterans in Category 5.

Passed, 99th National Convention of The American Legion, Reno, Nev., Aug. 23-24, 2017

Back-to-back record months for podcast

The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast audience is rapidly growing, thanks in part to the special podcast series for the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

- **10,292** Downloads in September, the best month ever
- **7,532** Downloads in August, the second-best month
- **4,409** Downloads in March, the previous best month
- **100** Tango Alpha Lima is scheduled to release its 100th episode in November

Visit legion.org/tangoalphalima to download any episode in audio format or watch on YouTube. A new episode is released every Tuesday by 9 a.m. Eastern.

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

'WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN THAT?'

Since the pandemic began, Paradise Post 149 and Auxiliary Unit 149 in Las Vegas have reached out to our members with our Buddy Checks. The response has been nothing but positive, and we've been able to assist a number of members with claims and financial support. Many never thought to contact us for help and were grateful. We were also able to clean up our membership rosters with correct mail and email addresses.

We received this note from a newly transferred member:

"Yesterday I received a phone call from a young lady representing your post. She asked me if I needed anything or if the post could be of any help. I was pleasantly shocked. I have been with the VFW and The American Legion for over 40 years now, and never in those years received a reach-out for any assistance. I used to write and publish the monthly newsletter, organized all the dinner/dance events, marched in the color guard, and barbecued and cooked more pasta than I care to remember. PLEASE thank the young lady for her efforts and listening to the ramblings of a 73-year-old Vietnam vet."

After reaching out to him, we now have a member who is becoming active in our post. What could be better than that?

Submitted by Vic "Doc" Moss, Paradise Post 149, Las Vegas

Learn how your post can conduct Buddy Checks:

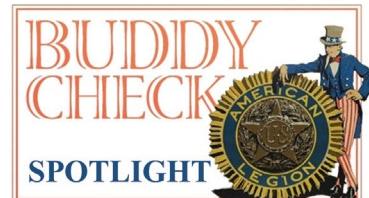
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"In less than two years, the 100 Miles for Hope challenge has raised more than \$500,000 for our Veterans & Children Foundation. But it's not just the fundraising that makes this special. It's the inspiring stories of American Legion members who have regained their fitness, lost weight and improved their mental well-being. I thank Commander Oxford for starting this wonderful initiative and look forward to continuing the challenge in 2022."

American Legion
National Commander
Paul E. Dillard



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"Coming from Spain and getting to know so many people that are so special, it's been an amazing experience for me. I love representing The American Legion and have had a lot of fun representing them."

Alex Palou, Chip Ganassi Racing driver, who won the 2021 NTT INDYCAR Series championship Sept. 26 and carried the American Legion banner in multiple races during the season



In early August, American Legion Riders from West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, along with other motorcycle groups, participated in an escort, flag lines and honors for Stanislaw Drwall, a native of Tucker County, W.Va., who had been considered missing in action since Pearl Harbor and whose remains were identified in June.

According to the West Virginia Veterans Memorial website, Drwall was born in 1916. In June 1936, he joined the Navy and was stationed on USS Oklahoma, where he was one of 429 men who went down with the ship Dec. 7, 1941. Initially, Drwall's remains were buried in a local cemetery, but in 1950 they were transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in a section set aside for the missing.

"Dec. 6 to Dec. 17 (1944). Still on ship. What an awful lot of water. Passed equator & international date line. Getting very hot. We were initiated 'shellbacks' for crossing equator for first time: ended up in a water fight. Am winning in poker. Other activities: reading detective mysteries, pinochle and checkers. Destination Hollandia, New Guinea."

Leo Guabello Sr., in a diary entry written while serving in the Army Air Corps during the Pacific campaign of World War II. Read more diary excerpts at legion.org/honor.

700 Military funeral protocols conducted by the honor guard of **James O. Hall** **American Legion Post 19 in Jennings, La.**, since its formation in August 2004



1,000+ U.S. flags retired via "dignified destruction" by **August Mattson Sons of The American Legion Squadron 71 in Gladstone, Mich.**, during a June 14 event. Tell your flag story on social media with the hashtag **#RallyAroundtheFlag**, or on Legiontown in the Rally Around the Flag category. legion.org/legiontown

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

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Student loan forgiveness

Some politicians have called for canceling student debt through executive orders or legislation to bring relief to students and families. Others propose simplifying repayment options, saying debt cancellation is unfair to non-college-educated, working-class Americans.



SUPPORT

Rep. Mike Levin, D-Calif.

Levin is a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.



OPPOSE

Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La.

Cassidy is a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Nearly 43 million Americans are saddled with student loan debt. This represents a major crisis for individuals and families, totaling more than \$1.74 trillion. While there are many proposals to address this debt, unfortunately there is no silver bullet.

In October 2019, I introduced H.R. 4609, the Veteran Service Equity Act, which would help many who serve the veteran community with their student loan debt and bolster the work of organizations that support veterans.

The dedicated experts who work for veteran service organizations (VSOs) devote their professional lives to ensuring veteran success. From answering benefits-related questions to assisting with VA claim filing, they support veterans every day. One way we can support them is by expanding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, under which employees who make student loan payments for 10 years become eligible for loan forgiveness.

Currently, most VSO workers don't qualify for loan forgiveness because PSLF is generally limited to 501(c)(3) organizations, disqualifying VSOs that file under other tax codes.

I look forward to reintroducing legislation during this Congress to close this unfair loophole that excludes so many VSO professionals. It's time to alleviate the burden of student debt for these employees and properly recognize the vital services they provide.

Is loan forgiveness good policy? Is it a wise investment of taxpayer dollars? Does it begin to solve the issue of mounting student debt? Is it targeted to those who need it? No.

Already, those who lose their jobs or otherwise cannot afford to repay their student loans have options that allow them to pay absolutely nothing without penalty. Blanket forgiveness would forgive debt not just for these borrowers, but also for the extremely wealthy who have not yet paid off their debt. This creates a moral hazard for current and future borrowers.

The answer is to better inform borrowers of their options to make affordable payments. While the words "free" and "forgiveness" always sound enticing, there are better, more lasting solutions to help student borrowers manage their debt, such as simplifying complicated repayment plans. Not enough borrowers know these plans are available.

I've joined Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., and Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, on the Repay Act, a bipartisan effort to simplify federal student loan repayment programs. The bill establishes two easy-to-navigate repayment plans: a fixed 10-year repayment plan, and a single simplified income-driven repayment option.

Congress and the administration have a role here, and it's to simplify these existing repayment plans in a fiscally responsible way, not cancel debt outright.

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Which activity tracker is best for you?

Activity trackers have come a long way from simply counting steps. Many connect directly to smartphones, relaying important data about our health. Here are comparisons of eight activity trackers, by price and features:

Apple Watch It's a true smartwatch and syncs with other Apple devices. You can answer texts, calls and even summon emergency help. Health features include tracking steps, elevation and calories; recording workouts; connecting with friends; and doing challenges. You can measure an electrocardiogram (ECG), and the new Series 6 added a blood oxygen meter. The drawbacks are battery life (day, day and a half) and customer service response time. Apple Watch comes in two sizes and several colors. Starts at \$399

Garmin Forerunner 55 This watch tracks time, distance, pace, cadence and speed during a run or walk with built-in GPS, while monitoring overall health and fitness. It also measures heart rate, stress and respiration rate, and calculates fitness age. It's not a touchscreen, but email and news alerts go directly to the watch. Up to two weeks of battery life are possible on a single charge. \$199

Garmin Venu 2S This was my favorite tracker aesthetically, looking like a traditional watch. It tracks sleep, stress, respiration, blood oxygen level and heart rate. The watch will send an alert if your heart rate spikes. The touchscreen isn't as intuitive as Apple's but is user-friendly. \$399.99

Garmin Instinct Solar This offers the same alerts and health tracking as other Garmins, and is popular with military and first responders. One drawback is lack of a touchscreen, but the battery life is up to 54 days in smartwatch mode and even gains extra from solar power. It's extremely durable and equipped with GLONASS and Galileo GPS systems. Starts at \$399.99

Polar Unite The Unite has a black touchscreen but doesn't send phone alerts to your watch. Polar uses the same health technology in all its watches, with extra features in its premium watches. The Unite includes the FitSpark training guide, which offers daily on-demand workouts that match your recovery, fitness level and training history. Polar has excellent customer service. \$149.95 (entry level)



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Polar Ignite 2 Like the Garmin Venu 2S, the Ignite 2 is attractive. It has paired phone notification features, although it can't respond via the watch. A great feature is its ability to integrate your personalized information to improve performance and overall health. The touchscreen isn't as user-friendly as Apple's, but it's not complicated. The battery is usually good for two to three days. \$229.95 (*intermediate level*)

Polar Grit X In addition to all the features on other Polar trackers, the Grit X offers Smart Coaching: detailed rest and recovery information, calorie and fuel tracking, and adaptive training plans. This lightweight touchscreen watch is aimed at outdoor enthusiasts and those seeking performance gains. It has a built-in GPS, compass and altimeter in training mode. The battery lasts up to 100 hours. Starts at \$429.95

Healbe GoBe3 This watch calculates calories burned and consumed. It also tracks hydration and sends reminders when it detects early dehydration. Purely an activity tracker, it lacks smartphone capabilities. However, it did a lot of the hard work for me, calculating my energy balance so I didn't have to measure what I was consuming and subtract it from what I was burning. The watch automatically tracks activity based on intensity, so I didn't have to manually enter it. The font and graphics are small, however. Price: \$199

Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is commander of the California American Legion's 24th District.



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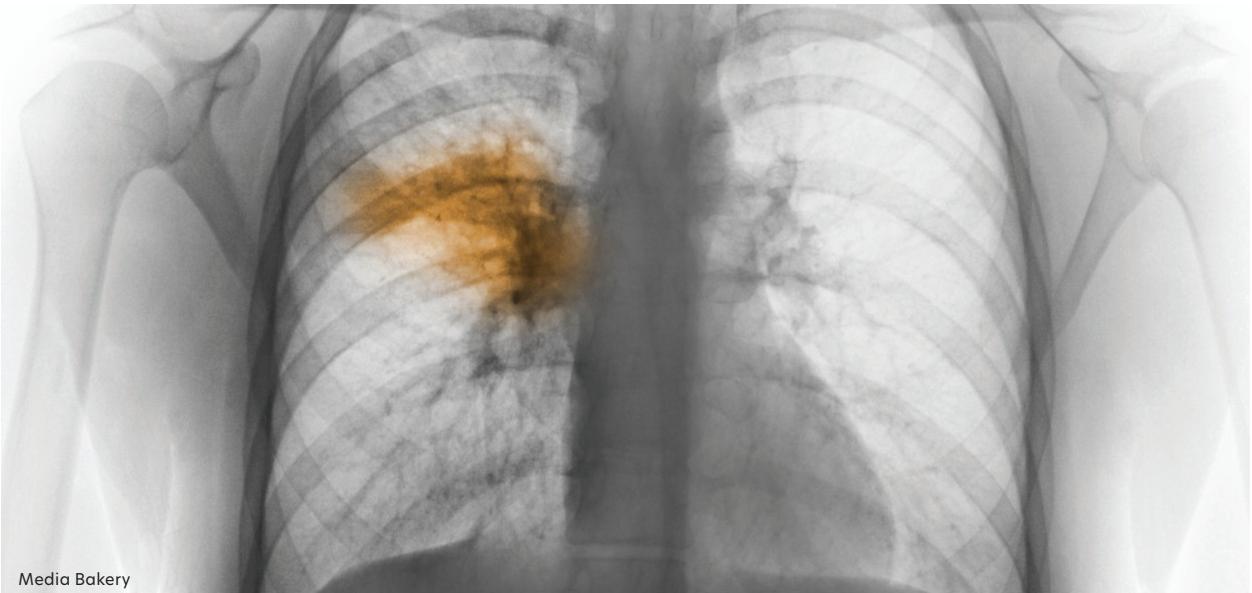
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What to know about pneumonia

Our measures to prevent COVID-19 infection – distancing, covering our mouths, washing our hands or using hand sanitizer – can also protect us from pneumonia. If we stick with these habits, we might reduce the more than 1 million hospitalizations and 50,000+ deaths that occur annually due to this common lung infection.

Pneumonia can develop when viruses, bacteria or fungi enter the respiratory tract, either from breathing in particles or touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your nose or mouth. The most common cause is the influenza virus, but COVID-19 infection can also lead to pneumonia. Vaccination for both, and monitoring symptoms in those who contract the flu or COVID, help in prevention.

Once infected, a person's lungs become inflamed and fill with fluid,

making it difficult to get essential oxygen into the bloodstream. This leads to coughing, chest pain, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, weakness and fatigue. Symptoms and their severity vary depending on cause of illness, age and overall immune health.

Most at risk are adults 65 and older, children younger than 5, smokers, people with chronic health conditions and those with impaired immunity. Anyone experiencing blue lips or fingertips, a high fever and/or a worsening cough with mucus should contact their physician immediately. They will likely test blood or mucus to determine the cause of the infection, and may order a chest X-ray or CT scan to look for lung inflammation.

With more than 30 different causes of pneumonia, diagnosing the source and selecting an appropriate treatment can be challenging. A recent study of 88,000 veterans reported that most patients with pneumonia benefit from a standard antibiotic treatment; MRSA bacteria cause only a small percentage of cases.

Pneumonia can be deadly, but it doesn't have to be. Preventive practices and seeking treatment early can save lives.

Michelle Gibeault Traub is a dietitian and health writer based in Connecticut.

TREATING MILD PNEUMONIA AT HOME

It may take anywhere from a week to a month for the lungs to recover from pneumonia. Patients need time to heal to avoid relapse.

- Rest, and follow your suggested treatment plan
- Avoid smoke and other irritants
- Keep lung tissues moist with a humidifier or warm showers
- Drink plenty of fluids, especially warm liquids
- Eat a nutritious diet, with colorful fruits and vegetables



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85,601 Corneas provided for transplant in 2019

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November is Eye Donation Month. Learn more about the process and register as a donor at restoresight.org.

Source: Eye Bank Association of America



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*Methodology: Phone surveys at regular intervals with general veterans affairs (VA) population of mixed diagnoses, including those with COPD, bronchiectasis (BE) and assorted neuromuscular disorders using the InCourage system. Data collection began in 2019. As of 9/30/2020, 323 veterans completed the baseline survey; 160 patients in 1-month cohort; 128 in 3-month cohort; 98 in 6-month cohort; 28 patients in 12-month cohort.

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The trail less traveled



Get the most out of a national park trip.

BY LYN METTLER

Eager to get out of the house and into nature, Americans are rediscovering the wonders of the national parks. But with all that competition, a trip into the great outdoors can get crowded.

Ash Nudd, a former National Park Service (NPS) ranger who now creates park itineraries and writes at DirtinMyShoes.com, shares her best tips to avoid busy times, see what other visitors often miss, and even save money:

Take lesser-known hikes and longer trails.

Everyone wants to do the famous hikes at certain national parks, like The Narrows and Angels Landing at Zion National Park in Utah, but there are more the public doesn't know about. "Oftentimes there are hikes that aren't on the park map," Nudd says. "This is something I learned as a park ranger. Some of my favorite places in Grand Teton, for example, are the trails rangers know about. Most parks have areas like that ... so you can get off the beaten path a little more."

Also, try taking longer trails or just get a mile or so from the trailhead. "Yellowstone has amazing trails, and you don't have to get more than a mile off the road to find solitude. There are definitely trails you can do to get away from the crowds but still see beautiful parts of the park that a lot of people don't normally see."

Visit during the winter months. Summer is the national parks' busiest season, so try winter. If you're looking to escape snow, consider warmer-weather parks like Saguaro in Arizona, Big Bend in Texas or Death Valley in California, Nudd says. Or if you want a bit of the white stuff, some parks have activities and programs unique to winter, like dog-sledding in Yellowstone or snowshoeing in Bryce Canyon.

Try a less-busy entrance. Rocky Mountain National Park is a great example. Most people use the Estes Park entrance, making the west entrance at Grand Lake much quieter. "It's a completely different experience," Nudd says. "There are some advantages to going in where most people don't," including seeing more moose on that side of the park. Keep in mind that you'll typically drive further if you choose less-busy entrances.

Go around dinnertime. Most people leave the parks around 3 or 4 in the afternoon, making things quieter from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Nudd says. Plus, this is a great opportunity to enjoy the parks at sunset.

Get an annual pass. U.S. military and dependents, veterans and Gold Star Family members get free entrance to all national parks, making them an affordable vacation – especially if you camp. You can get your free pass at many NPS sites, but check nps.gov to see which locations currently have them available. You can also order a pass online, but will need to pay for and allow time for shipping.

To get your pass in person, show your Common Access Card (CAC), military ID (Form 1173) or exchange a Gold Star Family voucher.

Lyn Mettler is a freelance travel writer who blogs at gototravelgal.com.

5 most visited parks in 2020

1. Blue Ridge Parkway, 14.1 million
2. Golden Gate National Recreation Area, 12.4 million
3. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 12.1 million
4. Gateway National Recreation Area, 8.4 million
5. Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 8 million



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Henry Hill American Legion Post 385's Basketball Youth League keeps Philadelphia kids off the street and on a positive path.

BY STEVEN B. BROOKS
PHOTOS BY BEN MIKESELL

It's a warm, almost hot, June afternoon in South Philadelphia - and on the immaculate outdoor basketball court at the Hawthorne Cultural Center, things can get even hotter.

Not for long, though. Not on Billy Denny's watch. Officiating the championship game of the Henry Hill Post 385 Basketball Youth League (BYL), of

which he is the commissioner, Denny is quick to respond when a player runs his mouth, gets physical or exhibits poor sportsmanship.

"That'll be enough," Denny tells a young man who's going on about a call. His voice is firm but not intimidating. "Or the bench is over there," Denny adds, pointing to the side of the court, a

Henry Hill Post 385's Basketball Youth League resumed last summer with a three-game tournament.



wall decorated with positive graffiti messages like "Stay in school."

There's no question whose league this is. Denny sees to that. American Legion banners and signs hang on fences and across the front of the scorer's table. The crowd watching the game - parents, other family members, BYL supporters - has no problem questioning some of Denny's calls. It creates an amusing, sometimes hilarious back-and-forth between him and the fans. But it's all in fun. To the locals, Denny's an institution. For 14 years, his basketball league has been a safe place for youth in a community that has seen its share of violence.

"Billy is a mentor," says Tennille Hannah, whose son Chaz, 13, played in this year's BYL tournament. "I've known him for years. He's like family to us. He's taken my son to 76ers games.

"We need more men like Billy, who takes time away from his family and everything he could be doing to step up - not only for the kids, but for everyone that's out here."

Two of Hannah's nephews, now 23 and 25, also played in the league. What Denny and Post 385 provide is "a safe haven, especially with all the gun violence that's going on in the city," she continues. "You watch the news. There's been murders and shootings on basketball courts. (BYL) gives children a place to come together and have fun - to do something they love to do, that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do."

Denny, who served 20 years as commander for Post 385 and is now adjutant, deflects praise to his team of volunteers. "It's not Billy," he says. "I'm just the face of the post. It's the Henry Hill post officers and members. Some of them are Vietnam-era age, and some are disabled. But they come out and show they care.

"We stand for community, state and nation. We're doing the community part. Some of the kids we've pulled away from gun violence. It makes me feel like I did something little in this big society."

Denny served on active duty in the Navy from 1980 to 1983, and in the reserve until 1989. Since then, he's taken on various leadership roles in The American Legion. He started as commander of Lincoln Post 89, then founded Post 385 and named it after his father, a longtime South-Southwest Philadelphia resident and activist who organized youth sports and recreation opportunities. Denny has also served as district commander, department public relations chairman, and on the National Law & Order Committee as the representative for four national commanders.

Currently, he's District 1 chairman, as well as a clerk in Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas. Then there's the seven months his team spends planning Post 385's BYL, which usually has eight to 10 teams in a season that runs from June to August.

The pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 season and reduced this year's to a three-game tournament won by the blue team, Temple, 41-13 on the strength of an 11-point, 15-rebound performance from tournament MVP Lamar



McCullough. As is tradition, winners were presented with the Henry Hill Trophy, on which their team name will be engraved.

Seeing BYL resume this year, even scaled back, was “beautiful,” says Edward Catlett, Post 385’s commander, “because we know that at least during this time these kids won’t be in trouble. Hopefully they tell their friends, and it gets bigger and grows.”

When the 2020 season had to be scrapped, “families were calling, asking if we were going to do it again,” Denny says. “They were anxious to have the kids get out of the house and do something constructive.”

That’s one of the biggest benefits of BYL, says Philadelphia basketball legend Nate Blackwell. The son of Nathaniel Holliday, Post 385’s Children & Youth chairman, Blackwell was the Atlantic 10 Conference Player of the Year in 1987 while playing for Temple University. He was named second-team All-American by *Basketball Weekly* and third-team by both the Associated Press and United Press International. He played briefly for the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA.

Blackwell helps with the league and sees it as a crucial program in the community. “Usually in the

home both parents are working,” Blackwell says. “You’ve got to have something for the kids that’s constructive ... especially in the summer, because of all the free time. There are getting to be fewer and fewer men who will take the time to do something like this.”

Denny is that man.

“You can’t stop this guy,” Blackwell says. “He’s very involved, and he wants the best for these kids. We need thousands more like him.”

Folami Islam, a recreation leader at Hawthorne Cultural Center, met Denny just prior to this year’s tournament. “He’s so passionate,” she says. “It’s great to know you have community partners who are like, ‘Yes, we want to do whatever we can to make this a safe place and a fun place for kids.’”

She appreciates The American Legion’s involvement, too. Two of Islam’s grandparents were members of Col. Charles Young American Legion Post 682 in Philadelphia, along with a couple of great-uncles.

“It’s great to have an organization like The American Legion say, ‘Hey, we’re here for the kids and want to work with the kids in any way possible,’” Islam says. “In the past, I’ve known them



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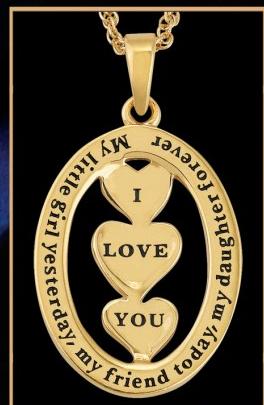
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Billy Denny, a Navy veteran and adjutant of Henry Hill Post 385, is BYL's commissioner. He also refereed this year's championship game.

to work with drill teams and musical things, but I never knew they had an actual basketball tournament. This is great for the community because the kids love basketball. It's a nice outlet, a safe outlet, where these men can be around these young men and foster that mentoring."

That mentorship is based on a philosophy of respect for the game and those playing it. Among the league rules, in all capital letters, is **RESPECT IS THE FIRST PRIORITY IN THE PROGRAM TO ALL, INCLUDING SPECTATORS**. Players are ejected from the game for unruly conduct or outbursts.

A "player attitude" sheet is distributed to every team, emphasizing these points:

- Be on time (no excuses).
- Listen and watch.
- No profanity on or off the court.
- Always believe.
- No poor body language.
- Cheer for your teammates while on the bench.
- Be a role model off the court.
- Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat.

Local sponsors help defray the league's costs. BYL also gets help from volunteers like Anthony "Hubba Bubba" King Sr., another Philly hoops legend who coached this year's tournament champs. King was an All-Public League player at William Penn High School, an all-Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association performer at Shaw University, and then went on to play in both the World Basketball and Continental Basketball

leagues. He still plays basketball in a 50-and-over league in the Philadelphia area.

Post 385's basketball league "is a nice way to give back to the communities," King says. "The American Legion is known all over the world, so it's a great way to help out and give these kids something to do."

For Denny, it's more than that. The longtime Legionnaire says Post 385's BYL is a necessity.

"It's needed," he says. "We don't have one of the best communities where kids can go out without risking getting harmed or abused or bullied. And they can't afford to go anywhere else. We put it where they don't have to pay much, and they get much, much more for just participating."

American Legion Baseball is the organization's biggest athletic program, but Denny thinks basketball is a way to expand the Legion's reach in inner-city communities. Veterans who have watched league games and didn't belong to the organization are walking away as members, he says.

That's a bonus, though. What he and Post 385 are trying hard to do is make a lasting difference in the lives of South Philadelphia's youth.

"It's to keep them away from crazy guys on the street," he said. "April is Children & Youth Month in the Legion, so we kind of bring that over to the summertime. When the kids have nowhere to go, we have a basketball league." ☺

Steven B. Brooks is social media manager for The American Legion.



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SALUTE TO SERVICE

National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford ends historic two-year term by thanking Afghanistan veterans, American Legion Family.

As the last U.S. troops left Afghanistan in August, American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford thanked veterans of that war for their noble and heroic service.

"You kept us safe for 20 years and made it possible for thousands to flee the oppressive grip of the Taliban," Oxford said in his address to the Legion's 102nd National Convention in Phoenix on Aug. 31. "We empathize with the emotional toll of recent events on our Afghanistan vets. I had similar feelings when Saigon fell. Political and diplomatic failures, however, are in no way a reflection of our great military members, who have done everything asked of them."

Oxford called on U.S. officials to learn from mistakes made during the evacuation. "We will continue to advocate safe passage for those who assisted our military during our long deployments. They fought shoulder to shoulder alongside our men and women. We need to

continue expediting Special Immigrant Visas for interpreters and their families. We cannot and must not abandon our allies."

Oxford also praised Legionnaires for their efforts during the pandemic. "Tremendous challenges require tremendous response, and the American Legion Family has proven it was up to that task," he said. "From setting up supply and relief centers to conducting virtual job fairs, posts and departments continued to do what The American Legion has always done: serve our communities and our country."

"As vaccines became available, we have encouraged people to take them. Many posts have become vaccination sites."

He urged Legionnaires to continue making Buddy Checks. "Providing helpful information about a new VA service or a post activity could be one. Simply offering assistance to move garbage cans from one side of the street to another, or a trip to the grocery store. (But what) if the veteran you contacted was



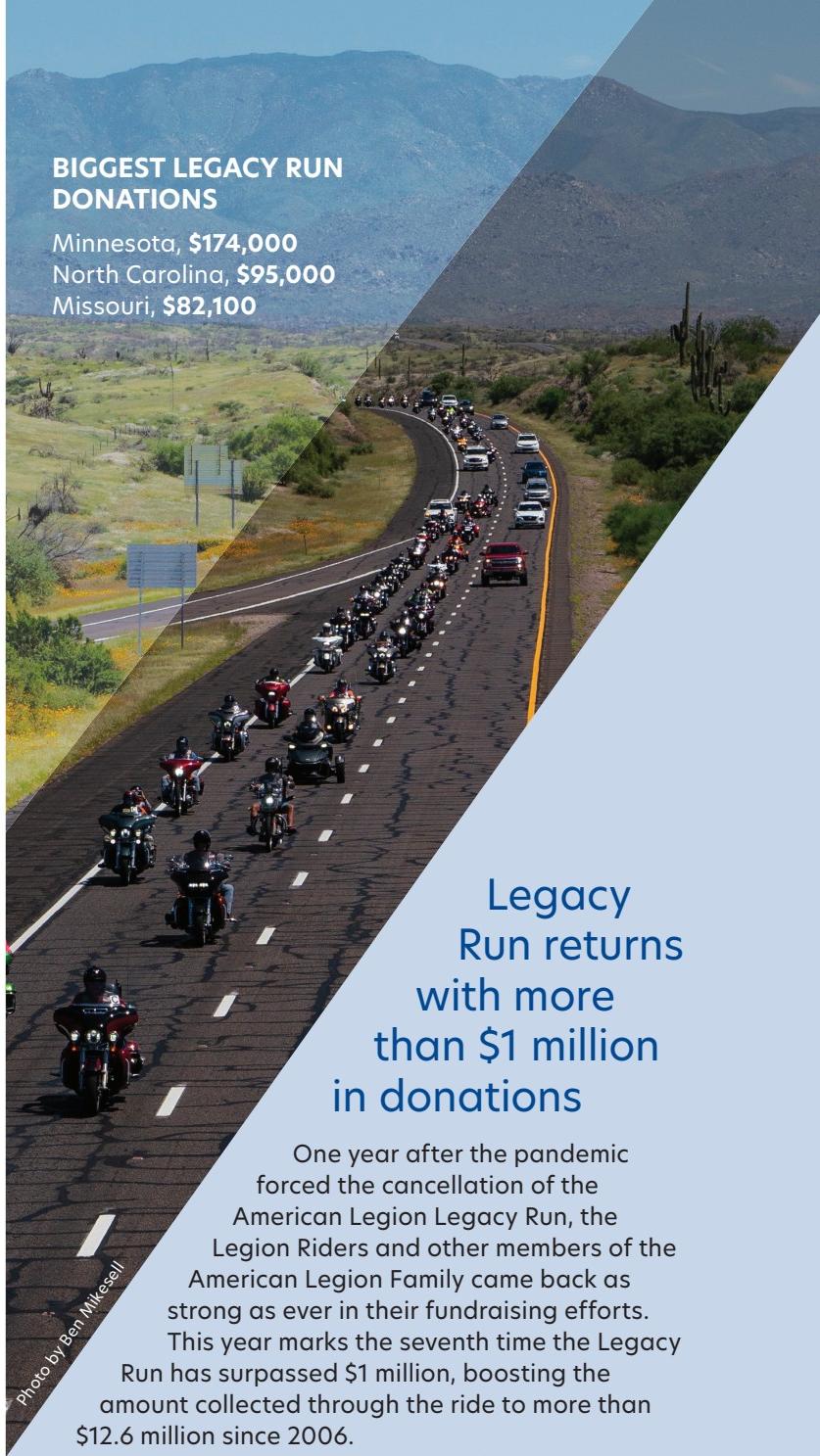


Photo by Jeric Wilhelmson

contemplating suicide when they received your call? You can make a life-or-death difference.”

Membership growth must be a priority too, Oxford said. “We’ve all heard young veterans ask, ‘What’s in it for me, American Legion?’ It’s a fair question. But I say to them, ‘Don’t listen to us. Watch us instead.’ Watch us fight hard for their benefits and well-being. Watch us organize and operate our popular youth programs. Watch us support and provide temporary financial assistance to families during times of need. Watch us check on veterans and their buddies – not to sign them up as members, but simply to say, ‘Tell us how we can help.’”

– Steven B. Brooks



BIGGEST LEGACY RUN DONATIONS

Minnesota, \$174,000
North Carolina, \$95,000
Missouri, \$82,100

Legacy Run returns with more than \$1 million in donations

Photo by Ben Mikesell

One year after the pandemic forced the cancellation of the American Legion Legacy Run, the Legion Riders and other members of the American Legion Family came back as strong as ever in their fundraising efforts. This year marks the seventh time the Legacy Run has surpassed \$1 million, boosting the amount collected through the ride to more than \$12.6 million since 2006.

The annual ride raises money for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college scholarships to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty or veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50% or greater.

This year’s Legacy Run left Rogers, Ark., on Aug. 22 and arrived outside Phoenix on Aug. 26, covering more than 1,400 miles in four states.

“It was a tough and grueling ride,” said Mark Clark, chief road captain and chairman of the National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee. “It doesn’t matter, though, what the weather is or what the temperature is. We ride for the kids.”



Photo by Ben Mikesell

VA secretary talks technology, COVID vaccine on podcast

At the 102nd National Convention, VA Secretary Denis McDonough took time to talk to the Tango Alpha Lima podcast about Afghanistan, the COVID vaccine and more:

- **On electronic health information on smartphones:** “I want to make sure that when we’re developing new technology, we’re developing it – like every other company and provider in the United States does it – from the perspective of our customers: the vets.”
- **On VA coronavirus protections:** “I want every vet who comes into a VA facility to have confidence we’ve done everything possible to ensure a healthy environment ... And we’ve got a lot of great experience over the past 18 to 20 months.”
- **On reaching out to Afghanistan veterans:** “When I say, ‘I hear you,’ that’s what I mean, as I hear ... those emotions you’re experiencing, and those are justifiable and natural and understandable.”

Listen to or view the full interview:

legion.org/tangoalphalima



“Organizations like The American Legion inspire and inform my service. Together, we can hold VA accountable to provide world-class care, cut through unnecessary bureaucracy, and offer

educational, financial and career support to those who gave so much in service to our nation. These are not Democrat or Republican issues. These are American issues.”

Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz.

Resolutions of the 102nd National Convention

NATIONAL SECURITY

- 37** Urges administration to pursue agreements between Israel and Middle East countries similar to those developed under Abraham Accords

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

- 8** Urges VA to provide child care at Vet Centers, Mobile Vet Centers and Vet Center Outstations

- 20** Urges VHA to include medical emergency transportation (air and land) in emergency episode of care

- 21** Urges VA to extend the presumptive period for service connection for Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses

- 22** Urges VA to add list of in-network emergency care providers to locator tool on website

- 24** Urges DoD to award the Purple Heart to active-duty military and veterans injured in a combat zone who suffer from a traumatic brain injury

- 25** Urges VA, DoD to offer reconsolidation of traumatic memories (RTM) protocol for treatment of PTSD

- 31** Expansion of the Central Missouri National Cemetery

- 34** Urges VA to generate reminder letters for expiring claims submissions

- 36** Prevent loss of benefits for Gold Star spouses who remarry

- 38** Opposes legislation that seeks to elevate standing of predatory claims companies that target veterans and their dependents

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

- 12** Urges VA to consider veteran homeowners willing to lease living spaces to homeless veterans as a viable option to end veteran homelessness

Read all 12 resolutions online:
archive.legion.org

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²Monthly fees do not include government taxes or fees and are subject to change. Plans and services may require purchase of Lively device and one-time setup fee of \$35. Urgent Response or 911 calls can be made only when cellular service is available. Urgent Response tracks an approx. location of device when device is turned on and connected to the network. Lively does not guarantee an exact location. Urgent Response is only available with the purchase of a Lively Health & Safety Package. Consistently rated the most reliable network and best overall network performance in the country by IHS Markit's RootScore Reports. Amazon Alexa integration with Jitterbug Flip2 requires Alexa registration and is subject to Alexa's Terms of Use. By enabling Alexa on the Jitterbug Flip2, you acknowledge that Lively is not responsible for Amazon Alexa's functionality or services. Amazon, Alexa and all related logos are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates. Screen images simulated. Appearance of device may vary. LIVELY and JITTERBUG are trademarks of Best Buy and its affiliated companies. ©2021 Best Buy. All rights reserved.

Award recipients from 102nd National Convention

Distinguished Service Medal

Diane Carlson Evans, Vietnam War combat nurse, founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation and Legionnaire

James V. Day "Good Guy" Award

Mark Eaton, Utah Jazz NBA all-star (posthumous)

National Color Guard Contests

Military - Open

American Legion Post 124, Westfield, Mass.

Military

Harrisburg American Legion Post 472, Houston

Advancing/Retiring Colors

Newport Harbor American Legion Post 291, Newport Beach, Calif.

National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Sgt. Daniel Martin, Omaha, Neb.

National Firefighter of the Year

Robert Nagle, Gallitzin, Pa.

Fourth Estate

Broadcast

"The Price of Protection: Problems with Court-Ordered Guardianship," WFTS, Tampa, Fla.

Internet/New Media

Coverage of Marine Corps proposal to close Parris Island Recruit Depot, Military.com

Print

Series on "unclaimed" veteran funerals, Daily Herald, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Spirit of Service

Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachariah D. Austin
Army Sgt. Joselito Cabang

Marine Corps Cpl. Darla L. Dunning

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael P. Monahan

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Jessica Rooks

Army National Guard Pvt. 1st Class Alejandro Sanchez

National Recruiter of the Year

Martha A. Bigbie, Hurricane, Utah

Race to the Top

Bruce Carl, Spring Hill, Fla.

Johnny D. Castro, Boynton Beach, Fla.

James F. Defrehn, Hardeeville, S.C.

Stephen N. Foster, Batavia, Ohio

James R. Gibson, Westminster, S.C.



"I am so proud that your commission, and The American Legion, had the foresight to have this resolution on file if it's ever needed. And my guess is it may be needed pretty soon."

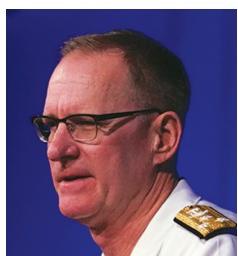
American Legion Past National Commander

Denise Rohan, speaking to the National Security Commission on the organization's support for legislation expanding mandatory draft registration for women between ages 18 and 25. Rohan currently serves as head of the Wisconsin Selective Service.



"The life crises thrown at us and our friends, family and neighbors every single day can happen to anyone. The difference is when gun owners get to that lowest point, when they're in that tiny window of crisis, when it feels like the world is closing in and there are no options, there's no way out. How is this going to end? When they reach out, they have the 90% lethal tool at arm's length. It's an impulsive act at our lowest point."

Matt Wetenkamp, veteran suicide prevention coordinator for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, on "lethal means safety" and veterans talking to veterans about guns



"Don't judge Afghanistan by what you've seen in the news and on television over the last couple of weeks. Judge it by the work that's been done the last 20 years. One day, one week, one month does not change the amazing difference we've made in that country, in the hearts of literally millions of people who otherwise would not have known ... what America stands for."

Vice Adm. Yancy Lindsey, commander, Navy Installations Command, who helped present The American Legion's Spirit of Service Awards

New commander Dillard: 'No veteran left behind'

Following his election as 2021-2022 American Legion national commander, Paul E. Dillard of Texas shared the theme for his year, "No Veteran Left Behind," and why he sees that mission as critical.

"There are many consequences for a veteran who is left behind," Dillard said. "Isolation, denied benefits, lost opportunity, and lack of decent housing or employment are just a few. The most tragic outcome for a veteran left behind is suicide. We must not let them down. Male, female, Iraq vet, Vietnam vet, Korean vet, World War II vet - we all served, and we must be there for each other."

A Vietnam War Navy veteran, Dillard joined The American Legion in 1969 and is a paid-up-for-life member of Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas.

His goal as national commander will be to raise \$2 million for the Veterans & Children Foundation, which provides vital assistance for military and veteran parents in financial hardship, as well as support for American Legion service officers in their efforts to obtain care and earned benefits for disabled veterans and their families. Dillard added, though, that money raised each year for the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program, National Emergency Fund and Child Welfare Foundation "have been very successful and need to continue to be."

Dillard said he has conducted one-on-one Zoom meetings with each department to establish 2022 membership goals. He's also issued another challenge: a retention rate of 90% for 2021 members.

"We must make personal contact with our members to thank them for their continued support of The American Legion by keeping their membership current, and ask them if we can count on them this year."



Watch speeches, award presentations, the Patriotic Memorial Service and more from the 102nd National Convention in Phoenix. legion.org/convention

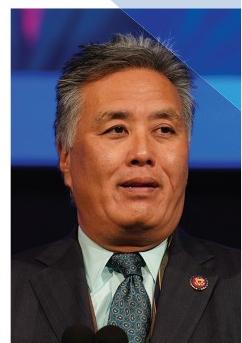


Photo by Ben Mikesell

"It amazes me week after week ... the local (Legion Family) members coming up and thanking me for what we're trying to do for The American Legion. And all I can think when you're thanking me is, 'I want to thank you.'"

INDYCAR team owner Chip Ganassi, during a "fireside chat" on veteran suicide conducted along with drivers Tony Kanaan and Jimmie Johnson on the convention stage

"The American Legion has been stalwart in calling for its members to be there for each other with Buddy Check Week, and I commend you for this constant reminder that connecting with each other is one of the most protective ways we can support veterans' mental health and well-being."



Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs



"Our nation needs people willing to walk where lightning strikes, drawn to a sense of duty."

Micheal Barrett, former sergeant major of the Marine Corps

2021-2022 National Officers



Cory D. Bates
National Vice Commander
Home: Coventry, R.I.
Service branch: Army, National Guard

Membership: Szelag-Peitras-Rekus-Mageria Post 81, 21 years
Region: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont



Angel O. Narvaez
National Vice Commander
Home: Carolina, Puerto Rico
Service branch: Army

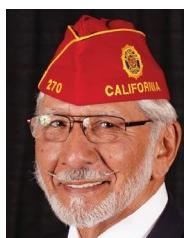
Membership: Pedro J. Rodriguez-Oquendo Post 129, 16 years
Region: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, South Dakota



Michael W. Griffith
National Sergeant-at-Arms
Home: Pottsboro, Texas

Service branch: Navy
Membership: Missing in Action Post 231, 51 years

Read more about The American Legion's national officers online: legion.org/about/officers



James T. Higuera
National Vice Commander
Home: Downey, Calif.
Service branch: Army

Membership: Downey Post 270, 55 years
Region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Philippines, Utah, Washington, Wyoming



Jerrold Wilson
National Vice Commander
Home: Harrison, Ohio
Service branch: Army
Membership:

Yeager Benson Memorial Post 199, 41 years
Region: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Kathy Daudistel
National President
Membership: Unit 203, Latonia, Ky., 25 years
Eligibility: Father



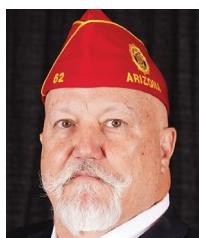
Stanley K. Hamamoto
National Chaplain
Home: Ordway, Colo.
Service branch:

Coast Guard
Membership: American Legion Post 209, 27 years



Michael F. Mitrione
National Vice Commander
Home: Fredericksburg, Va.
Service branch:

Army
Membership: American Legion Post 55, 33 years
Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia



Robert B. Gilmore Jr.
National Historian
Home: Peoria, Ariz.
Service branch: Navy

Membership: American Legion Post 62, 19 years



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Michael Fox
National Commander
Membership: Haggin Grant Squadron 521, Rio Linda, Calif., 43 years
Eligibility: Father, grandfather

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THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER'S



STORMY VOYAGE HOME

Olympia's captain, crew barely survived a hurricane transporting a precious passenger back to America.

BY J.R. NEUBEISER

ILLUSTRATION BY DOUG RUGH

Editor's note: In December 1920, American Legion founding leader U.S. Rep. Hamilton Fish III of New York introduced legislation that would deliver the Unknown Soldier to Arlington National Cemetery less than a year later. The Legion was involved at every step of the journey, from participation at the selection of the fallen hero through the tomb's dedication on Nov. 11, 1921. The trip from France to the United States would be carried out on USS Olympia, now dry-docked and on display at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, the last of the U.S. Spanish-American War fleet still in existence. This is the story of Olympia's harrowing trip across the Atlantic, and how the Unknown Soldier was protected and delivered, in the face of a historic storm.

Capt. Graves B. Erskine stood in the mist on the afterdeck of the cruiser beside the coffin of the Unknown Soldier. He felt the storm coming. He understood the gravity of his mission; he and his 38 Marines were entrusted by the people of the United States to protect the remains of this fallen soldier of the war to end all wars. Their orders were simple: bring him home before Armistice Day on Nov. 11. It was 3:28 p.m. on Oct. 25, 1921, at the harbor of Le Havre on the northern coast of France.

The French cruiser *Admiral Sénès* was the first ship to begin the procession. USS *Olympia* pulled away from the dock with a 17-gun salute from the French warship *Verdun* and farewell salvos from shore batteries. USS *Reuben James* and two columns of six French destroyers escorted *Olympia* to the mouth of the harbor, where the crews waved a final farewell. The Unknown Soldier was on his way home.

Meanwhile, in the southwestern Caribbean Sea, swirling winds and rain had grown into a tropical depression on Oct. 20. The storm intensified quickly, moving northwestward. By Oct. 22, it developed into a major hurricane – the sixth of the year. By the next day, maximum sustained winds of 140 mph on the Saffir-Simpson scale were recorded – a Category 4 storm that curved to the northeast and the Florida coast. As *Olympia* was leaving France, the hurricane struck the Florida coast at Tarpon Springs as a Category 3 with sustained winds of 120 mph. When it moved across central Florida, it weakened into a Category 1, becoming known as the Tarpon Springs Hurricane of 1921.

Reaching the Atlantic with winds of 80 mph, the hurricane briefly restrengthened to winds of 90 mph early on Oct. 27. Late on Oct. 29, the system accelerated northeastward and weakened to a tropical storm before being absorbed by a large extra-tropical cyclone, possibly the remnants of Hurricane No. 5 that had circled near the Azores and itself also degraded into an extra-tropical depression on Oct. 25. *Olympia* was about to traverse an ocean tormented by cyclone winds, mountainous waves and driving rain from two intense storms.

Capt. Henry Lake Wyman, *Olympia*'s skipper, instructed the Marine guard not to slant or tip the coffin. Therefore, the Unknown Soldier could not be moved to the interior of the ship through bulkhead hatches. Everyone onboard understood the dignity and respect deserving this fallen hero of America. The coffin would not be placed in a cargo hold.

Under the direct supervision of Erskine,

Marines carried the Unknown Soldier to the signal bridge, the highest point on the ship that could accommodate the coffin aft of the ship's conning (bridge). *Olympia*'s carpenters had constructed a wooden outer protective shell for the casket. Marines and sailors carefully wrapped the wood in waterproof tarps, then lashed it down with ropes and lines that a Marine private described as "enough line to secure the battleship *Wyoming* fore and aft with brest and spring lines to boot."

Erskine sensed an intense storm was looming ahead of *Olympia*. During his trip across the Atlantic to Portsmouth, England, he had experienced the ship rolling and heaving in angry seas. Its draft was 29 feet of water, but as Erskine later described, "she seemed too short for the long waves and too long for the short ones."

He was later quoted as saying, "The agonizing thought came to me: what if the Unknown Soldier - the hero America waits to honor - is washed overboard? I knew if such a thing happened, I might as well jump over with him."

After passing the Azores on Oct. 31, *Olympia* began encountering large waves and rain. The deck crew quickly moved to secure forecastle gear and place buckler plates over the chain locker to keep water out. Near-gale-force winds ripped into *Olympia* around 10 a.m., making steering difficult. Green water smashed into the bow of the ship and washed down the wooden decks like a mountain stream in spring. Life lines were quickly tied to stanchions by the ship's crew for traversing slippery open areas. When the bow rose on a growing wave, the fan tail dipped low with water gushing across the place where the Unknown Soldier previously rested. Erskine's natural senses, which had served him well on the battlefields of France, allowed him to stay one step beyond a disaster.

Before *Olympia* departed France, Wyman ordered a Marine guard to stand with the Unknown Soldier around the clock. Erskine established a four-hour duty watch for his Marines. They now stood their watches on the open signal bridge beside the coffin in winds that ripped and tore at their oilskin jackets. Even facing away, the cold, pelting rain found ways to trickle down their necks.

As the storm roared, *Olympia* rolled dangerously close to its limit for broaching. The white bow sank deeply into the green water; decks were more awash in foaming sea water than clear. When the watch changed, Erskine realized his sentry on the signal bridge was in danger of being swept overboard. The Marine guards suggested they be lashed to the ship's rail. Erskine then ordered detachment 1st Sgt. Edward A. Mullen Sr. to tie each relief



The Erskine file

If Capt. Graves B. Erskine had not survived the stormy trip across the Atlantic to return the Unknown Soldier to America, the nation would have lost a multi-war Marine Corps leader. His service record in brief:

Mexican Border War: Saw action with the Louisiana National Guard.

World War I: Platoon leader who fought at Chateau-Thierry, Belleau Wood, Bouresches and Soissons; wounded twice and received the Silver Star.

1928: Assigned to Nicaragua with the 2nd Marine Brigade and the Nicaragua National Guard Detachment; led jungle operations against organized bandits. Served in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

World War II: Promoted to brigadier general; highly decorated for combat leadership at Saipan, Tinian, the Marianas and Iwo Jima. Later served as a technical adviser for the Hollywood film "Sands of Iwo Jima."

1947: Commanded the 1st Marine Division and Camp Pendleton, Calif.; later promoted to major general.

1953-1961: Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Special Operations.

May 21, 1973: Died at 75; buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



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65	\$34.75	\$25.50	\$68.50	\$50.00	\$102.25	\$74.50	\$169.75	\$123.50
66	\$35.90	\$26.35	\$70.80	\$51.70	\$105.70	\$77.05	\$175.50	\$127.75
67	\$37.05	\$27.25	\$73.10	\$53.50	\$109.15	\$79.75	\$181.25	\$132.25
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71	\$45.60	\$34.25	\$90.20	\$67.50	\$134.80	\$100.75	\$224.00	\$167.25
72	\$47.70	\$36.00	\$94.40	\$71.00	\$141.10	\$106.00	\$234.50	\$176.00
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*All benefits paid would be less any outstanding loan.

to a stanchion, and place two Marines inside the helmsman station in case the ropes holding the canvas loosened or the wooden enclosure failed. Marine Pvt. Frederick A. Landry was later quoted as saying, "I began feeling sorry for myself standing there in a small area with wind and rain pelting me in the face, but my self-sorrow didn't last long. I soon realized that what I was doing was little enough compared to what the Unknown Soldier had done - given his life."

Erskine observed a Marine on ship's watch get caught by a wave and washed down the deck. His black rubber boots instantly filled with sea water and were carried overboard as he held tightly to the safety line.

The old queen of the fleet moaned and groaned through each wave. Erskine reported later that he thought he saw plates on the ship's hull moving. During the battle of Manila Bay, *Olympia* had been struck a number of times by Spanish cannon fire, but only cosmetic damage occurred. Below decks, the ship rolled so far that sailors moved down passageways with one foot on deck and the other on the bulkhead. The bridge became awash from monster waves, and the ward room had water slushing across the deck. At 10:30 a.m., a strong wave broke loose the life raft in the port galley passage. As the ship pitched, a falling water bucket lacerated the scalp of Seaman Charles D. Bell. In the engine room, Seaman R.M. Thistle fell through the catwalk bars and onto a cylinder head, gashing his cranium. Wyman grew concerned that one more roll might be the ship's last. A Navy chaplain, Lt. Edward A. Duff, had boarded the ship at Portsmouth to hitch a ride back to America. Duff was an ordained Catholic priest. Wyman, worried the ship might sink, suggested the chaplain hold a prayer service for the crew.

Sailors and Marines not on duty gathered in the galley, where they held tightly to bulkheads, pipes and each other as the ship pitched violently. Father Duff began by reminding the crew of the importance of their mission. He told them God was watching out for *Olympia*. All bowed their heads as Duff said a prayer for the Unknown Soldier lying above them on the ocean-swept signal bridge. He prayed that the Unknown Soldier would be returned to the land of the free and the home of the brave.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, the weather moderated. The deep green seas rolled gently under *Olympia* as the great white lady rose up the side of a wave, under a powder-blue sky. Then it would gracefully slide down the opposite side, changing the powder-blue horizon to deep green. Below decks, the engine room was having problems - not from

CENTENNIAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier plans events nationwide to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sacred site at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. See the complete list at tombguard.org.

Nov. 1-30, Tyler, Texas

Commemorative display of 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Robert R. Muntz Library

1, Online Virtual presentation on the history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from 1921 through today, hosted by the Somerset County Library System in New Jersey
sclsnj.org

7, Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia "Taps in Honored Glory" commemorates the centennial of the Tomb and the buglers who have sounded taps there over the past century, beginning at 10 a.m. at Tanner Amphitheater. A high tea will be offered at 11:30 a.m. at the Military Women's Memorial, along with tours and remarks from Gavin McIlvenna, president of the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

8-10, Arlington, Va., Crystal Gateway Marriott

Centennial Week begins, leading up to the 100th anniversary of the World War I Unknown Soldier's burial. Events include lectures by authors who have written about the Unknown Soldiers, a lecture on the history of taps and use of bugles in funerals, a Joint Naval Symposium on contributions of the nation's naval forces, a "Voices from the Tomb" presentation with Q&A session, and more.

9-10, Arlington National Cemetery

The public is invited inside the chains to lay flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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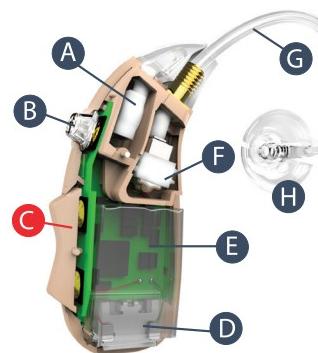
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the pounding seas, but from the large consumption of coal. The two huge engines were fed greater quantities by the engine room crew to maintain course and speed. As the fires in the boilers grew dim from a lack of fuel, Wyman ordered all hands to move coal stores from a forward bunker. Marines and sailors formed a line to pass the black chunks to the starving boilers before the fires flickered out. With the last obstacle removed, *Olympia* proudly steamed for Cape Henry Lighthouse at the southern entrance to Chesapeake Bay.

It was time for the Marines to polish their brass and spit shine their dress shoes.

A light rain was falling when *Olympia* eased alongside Pier 3 at the Washington Navy Yard dock, bringing to mind the old saying, "When it rained at someone's funeral, it was angel tears, as a good one left the earth for their eternal home."

Waiting on the wet cobblestone dock to take the Unknown Soldier home were mounted soldiers of the Army's 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

The cavalry squadron faced the ship in line formation. All eyes were on the flag-draped coffin. The Marines and sailors on deck smartly saluted one last time. The ship's bell sounded at 4 p.m., and the Army band began playing "Onward Christian Soldier" as the Unknown Soldier was gently carried down the sand-dusted ramp from ship to shore and his waiting caisson with six black horses.

Erskine's Marines stood at attention in formation on the dock. With the command "present arms," the Marines in their dress blues snapped their Springfield rifles into one last salute. Sabers flashed in the rain – a salute from the men of the 3rd. The Navy and Marines relinquished their responsibility to the Army. The Marines had accomplished their mission and lived up to their motto: *Semper Fidelis*, "always faithful."

The slow trip to the Capitol Rotunda began, and Capt. Graves B. Erskine shouted the orders to his men: "Order – arms – at ease!"

With the skill of the officers and sailors of *Olympia*, the devotion of the U.S. Marine Detachment and the hand of God, the Unknown Soldier was home in America. ☙

Vietnam War Marine Corps platoon and company commander Joseph Robert "J.R." Neubeiser has written numerous human-interest stories for national and local newspapers. He is a member of Leo B. Neubeiser American Legion Post 144 in Belle Plaine, Minn., named for his third cousin, who served in World War I. Neubeiser retired from the federal government after 34 years as a senior executive.

9, National Museum of the Navy, Washington, D.C. A 12:30 p.m. seminar at the Navy Yard commemorates the arrival of the Unknown Soldier to the United States, followed by a plaque dedication at 3 p.m.

9, USS Olympia, Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia

A commemoration ceremony mirrors those at the Navy Yard to honor the 100th anniversary of the World War I Unknown Soldier's arrival in the United States.

11, Nationwide, 11 a.m., local time

Communities are urged to participate in the National Salute to remember all who have served and sacrificed for their country.

tombguard.org/centennial/projects#national-salute

11, Indianapolis Cornelia Cole

Fairbanks Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and American Legion Post 3 host a National Salute ceremony featuring a bell choir, two-minute silence and taps. 11 a.m.

11, Valdosta, Ga. Dedication of a Never Forget Garden at the Crescent, 1 p.m.

11, Tyler, Texas Veterans Day Program and National Salute at Camp V, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

11, Shreveport, La., American Rose Center Veterans Day Program and National Salute, 10 a.m.

11, East Helena, Mont., Cemetery Dedication of a Never Forget Garden, 10 a.m.

12, Shreveport, La. "Unknowns: A Centennial Symposium in partnership with Louisiana State University Shreveport" includes sessions on the Medal of Honor and the Unknown Soldier, plus authors Steven Trout, Philip Bigler, Andrew Richards and Lisa Budreau. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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NSC-68

The 1950 paper that shaped America's response to the Soviet challenge offers wisdom in navigating Cold War II.

BY ALAN W. DOWD

A State Department report gives us a sense of how grave the threats facing our nation are: Our adversary “is animated by a new fanatic faith, antithetical to our own” and “seeks to impose its absolute authority over the rest of the world” by “waging … political, economic and psychological warfare … weakening the relative world position of the United States … (and) disrupting its traditional institutions by means short of war.”

Equally troubling, every institution of our society “is an instrument … to stultify and turn against our purposes … The integrity and vitality of our system is in greater jeopardy than ever.”

One caveat: This report was drafted in 1950. Yet the assessments and overall thrust of National Security Council Paper 68 (NSC-68) are relevant today, as Washington tries to navigate threats posed by China, Russia and jihadist terror.

Starting point NSC-68 described the nature of the threat the United States faced and offered a plan for how to address that threat: “By all means short of war,” America would seek to “block further expansion of Soviet power … induce a retraction of the Kremlin’s control and influence” and “foster

the seeds of destruction within the Soviet system … to the point of modifying its behavior to conform to generally accepted international standards.”

NSC-68 argued that the United States needed to lead the “free world” toward “common purpose,” and that Americans had to grasp the threat. “The whole success of the proposed program hangs ultimately on recognition by this government, the American people and all free peoples that the Cold War is in fact a real war in which the survival of the free world is at stake.”

Turning east Like the USSR, the People’s Republic of China has the capacity and intent to challenge the free world across every domain and region. And like the USSR, the PRC has no interest in joining an international system premised on free government and free markets – only to supplant it. Beijing is amassing the economic, industrial, cultural, technological and military tools to do that.

On the economic-industrial front, China is the world’s top manufacturing nation, top exporting nation and second-largest economy. Beijing’s cultural reach is evident, from its influence over Hollywood to its 480 Confucius Institutes around

the world (designated by Washington as part of Beijing's "propaganda apparatus"). On the tech front, Beijing is conducting a cybersiege of the free world, stealing everything from F-35 schematics to Office of Personnel Management employee records, and engaging in election interference. On the military front, China has the world's largest navy and a swelling nuclear arsenal.

Like the USSR, Xi Jinping's China is leveraging its economic-industrial-military clout to carve out a sphere of control (the South China Sea), intimidate its neighbors (Taiwan, India, Japan, Philippines), build an anti-Western bloc (Russia, Serbia, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Venezuela), buy loyalty via development projects (the Belt and Road Initiative), gain a toehold in strategically located regions (control over ports in 18 countries), use proxies to distract Washington (North Korea), and erode the existing international order (Xi promises "a more just and reasonable new world order").

To be sure, the NSC-68 roadmap can take us only so far in dealing with this century's communist behemoth. America and the USSR were literally walled off from one another, while America and the PRC are economically intertwined. However, what NSC-68 warned during the USSR's ascendance is true of the PRC's: If the United States retreats, our foe will impose its own kind of order in the world.

Backtracking to the USSR If China embodies the dangers of a rising empire, Russia represents the dangers of a dying empire. A declining empire can be as volatile as a rising empire, especially when it fields the world's largest nuclear arsenal. NSC-68 reminded policymakers that the world had endured in a brief timespan the "collapse of five empires." The consequence: war and disorder.

The international system built from the rubble of those broken empires – founded on liberal political and economic institutions, open alliances, and accepted norms of behavior – is under assault by Russia. During Vladimir Putin's reign, Russia has violated nuclear-weapons treaties, launched wars to occupy parts of Ukraine and Georgia, conducted cyberwar against Estonia, hacked the U.S. power grid, armed Taliban forces waging war against U.S. personnel operating under U.N. mandate, and militarily propped up regimes that are gassing (Syria) and starving (Venezuela) their own people.

Soviet Russia made similar blunt-force moves. But as NSC-68 noted, Moscow prefers to subvert by infiltration and intimidation, aiming to prevent our institutions "from serving our ends and thus to make them sources of confusion in our economy, our culture and our body politic."

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Led by a former KGB intelligence officer, Russia is using intelligence agencies and cyber proxies to target critical infrastructure, generate fake news stories about U.S. troops and COVID-19's origins, sway public opinion via false-front organizations, exacerbate divisions via social media, and conduct strategic-influence operations targeting U.S. political institutions.

Putin's goal is not to choose winners and losers, but to weaken the winners and sow doubt among the losers, destabilize political institutions, splinter the free world, erode confidence in liberal democracy and normalize business-suit autocracy.

Reversing revolutions Centralized atheist states like the USSR and PRC would seem to have little in common with an amorphous network of theocratic organizations and regimes like Iran, the Taliban, al-Qaida and ISIS. But if their tactics are different, their ends are similar: Communism and jihadism are revolutionary transnational movements that seek to upend the international system.

NSC-68 concluded that Moscow's goal was "destruction ... of this republic." Nikita Khrushchev declared "socialism will ... conquer capitalism." Xi argues capitalism "is bound to die out." Iran's constitution calls for "formation of a single world community" under Shiite teachings. The leaders of Sunni al-Qaida and Sunni ISIS rally their followers to "strike blows against American interests all over the world" and "destroy the idol of democracy." The Taliban is committed to enforcing sharia law. These organizations and regimes may not be allied in a technical sense, but they are aligned in means (terrorism), ends (upending the international system) and main enemy (America).

Now, as when NSC-68 was issued, our enemies are animated by a "fanatic faith, antithetical to our own." Now, as then, success depends on the recognition by "all free people" that the war on terrorism "is in fact a real war." Iran's leaders have the blood of 603 U.S. troops on their hands. Given

that they allowed al-Qaida to use Afghanistan to carry out 9/11, Taliban leaders have the blood of thousands of Americans on their hands. Between 2015 and 2020, ISIS and al-Qaida footsoldiers mounted a string of bloody attacks in Pensacola, San Bernardino, Orlando, Vienna, Paris and Nice.

Values NSC-68 offers five keys for containing and outlasting rising empires, revisionist regimes and revolutionary movements:

• **We must “affirm our values in the conduct of our national life.”** These include “freedom, tolerance, the importance of the individual and the supremacy of reason over will.” Presidents should promote these values at the State of the Union, G7 and NATO summits, and the United Nations by drawing attention to China’s prison camps, Uighur concentration camps and absorption of Hong Kong; shining light on Russia’s political assassinations, treaty violations and vivisection of Ukraine; naming and shaming regimes that enable jihadism; condemning the enemies of religious freedom; and giving voice to victims of oppression. “A little less détente,” President Ronald Reagan said, “and more encouragement to the dissenters might be worth a lot of armored divisions.”

• **America must invest more in defense.** NSC-68, historian Paul Johnson writes, “enshrined the proposition that America, as the greatest free power, had moral, political and ideological obligations to preserve free institutions throughout the world – and must equip herself with the military means to discharge them.”

The 20th century taught Americans that military weakness invites aggression, while military strength deters it. Yet with China on the rise, Russia on the march and the Middle East on fire, today’s defense budget is just 3.1% of GDP. The Cold War average was more than twice that. As NSC-68 argued, “Budgetary considerations will need to be subordinated to the stark fact that our very independence as a nation may be at stake.”

• **We must recognize the importance of allies.** China is a country of 1.3 billion. Its annual military expenditure has mushroomed 517% since 2000. It has a 350-ship navy and a laser-like focus on absorbing or controlling its neighbors.

The United States has a billion fewer people than China, a 297-ship Navy, a defense budget that’s

shrinking as a share of federal outlays, and security commitments around the world. However, the United States combined with democratic partners in the Americas, Europe, the Indo-Pacific and Middle East enfolds some 2.8 billion people, 71% of global GDP, 65% of global defense spending, and what former Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen calls “a thousand-ship navy.” These allies are force-multipliers and outer rings of security, providing strategic depth and frontline support.

To deter China, Japan has increased defense spending 10 years running, Australia by 40% over the next decade, India by 49% in the past decade. Australia, Japan, Britain, Canada and France are promoting freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. The United States, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Australia, India, Thailand and Singapore are repurposing old alliances and creating new partnerships. Their goal is to “block further expansion” of China’s power and “induce a retraction” of its control and influence.

To deter Russia, NATO’s European and Canadian members have added 131,000 troops to their ranks and \$130 billion in fresh defense spending since 2016. Germany, Britain and Canada are spearheading NATO’s Baltic battlegroups.

France, Britain, Netherlands, Poland and Australia are stalwart partners in the fight against jihadists. Qatar, Bahrain, Germany, Britain, Norway, Turkey and others supported the humanitarian operation at the Kabul airport. Israel is degrading Iran’s presence in Syria and partnering with the United States to target al-Qaida.

• **In dealing with Russia and China, we must “leave open the possibility of negotiation” and allow them to retreat “with a minimum loss of face.”** As we learned during the missile crisis with Moscow and Hainan crisis with Beijing, allowing the enemy to save face can save lives.

• **Americans must be united in purpose.** NSC-68 argued that the Cold War would require “ingenuity, sacrifice ... unity ... and the tenacity to persevere until our national objectives have been attained.”

As we enter Cold War II, we would do well to refamiliarize ourselves with those words and with the roadmap that guided us through Cold War I. ¶

Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute Center for America’s Purpose.

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Rural veterans need substantial federal investment in broadband.

BY KEN OLSEN

Nearly 2.4 million veterans, many of whom live in rural areas, lack broadband internet that is essential for accessing health care, education and employment. And President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan, which calls for investing \$100 billion in broadband expansion, is key to addressing this inequity, The American Legion says.

"It's more than internet access," says Daniel Seehafer, chairman of the Legion's Veterans Employment & Education Commission. "It's an educational tool, a health-care tool and an economic development tool. It would boost productivity, strengthen the economy and provide crucial services."

The Department of Commerce estimates that 2.36 million veterans living in 1,564 U.S. counties need broadband access. The pandemic brought that deficit into sharp relief as hospitals and clinics replaced in-person appointments with telehealth visits, universities shifted to online classes and employers turned to telework to limit the spread of COVID-19. VA telehealth visits alone grew 618% from March 2020 to March 2021. That includes a nearly sixfold increase in video appointments with veterans in rural areas.

In May, The American Legion's National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 1, calling on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce to prioritize broadband expansion in the rural United States.

Expanding broadband access is particularly important for former servicemembers living in rural areas – even in the absence of a pandemic. More than half have at least one service-connected health issue. They also are more likely to be dealing with diabetes, high blood pressure and heart conditions than veterans in urban areas, according to VA.

"Expansion of broadband services in rural areas would enhance their access to virtual VA health-care modalities that can help address those chronic conditions," a VA spokesman says.

Lack of broadband not only affects veterans' access to telehealth, online education and training and remote-work jobs, but it also hampers the more than 1.1 million veteran-owned businesses in rural America by restricting their access to markets, financing, grants and supplies, according to The American Legion.

The FCC estimates it will cost at least \$80 million to provide broadband to people living in rural American and tribal lands. Private companies haven't stepped in because there aren't enough customers for them to recover their costs, much less generate a profit. As a result, there have been growing calls for the federal government to make the investment. It's the modern-day equivalent of 20th-century efforts to extend electricity and telephone service to underserved areas in rural America, Seehafer says.

The price tag for broadband expansion has generated criticism from fiscal hawks. That's shortsighted, Seehafer adds. "Nobody talks about the cost when we need men and women to go to war. America needs veterans. The thank yous and pats on the back are nice, but that doesn't create jobs, boost productivity, strengthen communities or improve health-care access." 

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

26%

Rural veterans
who do not access the
internet at home

982,911 VA telehealth visits in
March 2021

136,891 VA telehealth visits in
March 2020

221,019 VA telehealth visits to rural
veterans in March 2021

37,401 VA telehealth visits to
rural veterans in March 2020



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Constantius II, became Caesar at 7, and a Roman Emperor at age 20. Today, he is remembered for helping continue his father's work of bringing Christianity to the Roman Empire, as well as for his valiant leadership in battle.

But for many collectors, his strongest legacy is having created one of the most fascinating and unique bronze coins in the history of the Roman Empire: the "Gladiator's Paycheck".

THE GLADIATORS PAYCHECK

Roman bronze coins were the "silver dollars" of their day. They were the coins used for daily purchases, as well as for the payment of wages. Elite Roman Gladiators—paid to do battle before cheering crowds in the Colosseum—often received their monthly 'paycheck' in the form of Roman bronze coins.

But this particular Roman bronze has a gladiator pedigree like no other! Minted between 348 to 361 AD, the Emperor's portrait appears on one side of this coin. The other side depicts a literal clash of the gladiators. One warrior raises his spear menacingly at a second warrior on horseback. Frozen in bronze for over 1,600 years, the drama of this moment can still be felt when you hold the coin. Surrounding this dramatic scene is a Latin inscription—a phrase you would never expect in a million years!

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

The Latin inscription surrounding the gladiators reads: "Happy Days are Here Again" (*Fel Temp Reparatio*). You see, at the time these coins were designed,

the Emperor had just won several important military battles against the foes of Rome. At the same time, Romans were preparing to celebrate the 1100th anniversary of the founding of Rome. To mark these momentous occasions, this new motto was added and the joyful inscription makes complete sense.

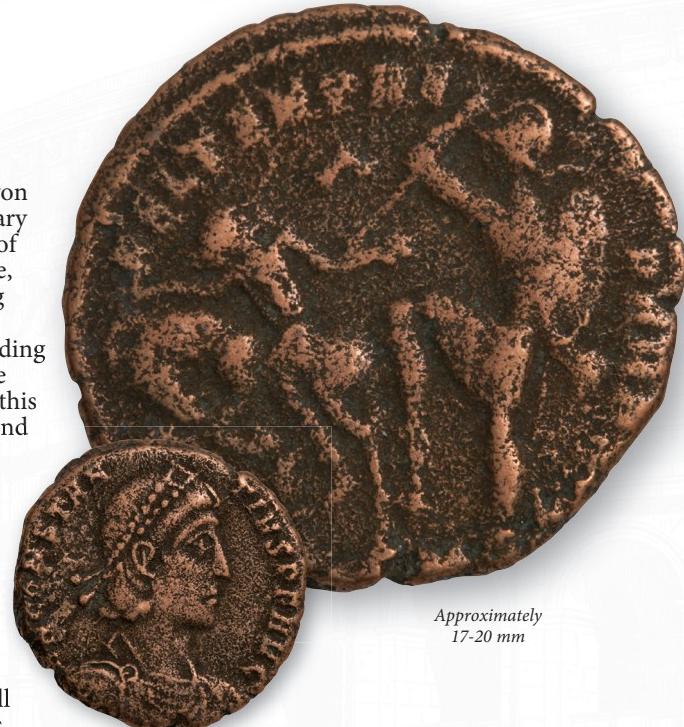
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For more than sixteen centuries, these stunning coins have survived the rise and fall of empires, earthquakes, floods and two world wars. The relatively few Roman bronze coins that have survived to this day were often part of buried treasure hoards, hidden away centuries ago until rediscovered and brought to light.

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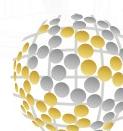
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...THEN IF SOMETHING TURNS UP, WE CAN
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'No higher honor'

Legendary Vietnam War correspondent Joe Galloway remembered as friend to soldiers.

Joe Galloway, whose detailed account of the first major battle of the Vietnam War became a best-selling book and movie, died Aug. 18 in Concord, N.C., at 79.

A native of Refugio, Texas, Galloway was a 24-year-old reporter for UPI when he landed in the Ia Drang Valley with the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment in November 1965. There, the Americans fought off three North Vietnamese regiments, and during the fighting, Galloway pulled a private from the flames of a napalm blast. For that, he received the Bronze Star – the only medal of valor awarded by the Army to a civilian for actions in combat during the war.

"What I saw and wrote about broke my heart a thousand times, but it also gave me the best and most loyal friends of my life," Galloway told the *Victoria Advocate*, the Texas daily where he once worked as a cub reporter. "The soldiers accepted me as one of them, and I can think of no higher honor."

Galloway's career continued at *U.S. News & World Report*, where he covered the Gulf War in 1991. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf called him "the finest combat correspondent of our generation – a soldier's reporter and a soldier's friend."

Galloway spent the rest of his life honoring the service and sacrifice of soldiers; in 2006, he and former 1/7 Cavalry commander Lt. Gen. Hal Moore spoke at The American Legion's national convention in Salt Lake City in support of the National Museum of the U.S. Army. In May, the Legion's National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 3, supporting a Presidential Medal of Freedom for Galloway.

Among those who spoke at Galloway's memorial service in Concord on Sept. 18 was his close friend and Medal of Honor recipient Bruce "Ol' Snake" Crandall, who flew 22 missions in an unarmed helicopter to evacuate wounded at Ia Drang.

"The current 1/7 Cavalry commander ... said everywhere he looked at the (funeral) service he saw Medals of Honor, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts. You can tell the measure of a man by those who show up for him."

David A. Bryant, Fort Hood Herald staff writer and Garryowen alumni

1991 Receives the National Magazine Award for a *U.S. News & World Report* cover story on the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Ia Drang

1992 Co-authors "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young" with Lt. Gen. Hal Moore

1998 Decorated with a Bronze Star Medal with V (valor) for carrying a wounded soldier to safety while under fire in the Ia Drang Valley in 1965; co-authors "We Are Soldiers Still: A Journey Back to the Battlefields of Vietnam" with Moore

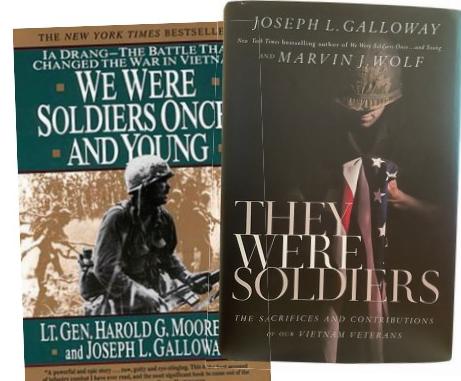
2002 "We Were Soldiers" is adapted for film, starring Mel Gibson as Moore and Barry Pepper as Galloway

2011 Receives Doughboy Award for outstanding contributions to the U.S. Army Infantry

2013 Special consultant to the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Project, conducting some 1,000 interviews

2016 Consultant to PBS documentary "The Vietnam War," directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick

2020 Co-authors "They Were Soldiers" with Marvin J. Wolf, telling the inspiring stories of 49 Vietnam War veterans who contributed to American life



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Photo courtesy National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

Desert Storm memorial in final funding push

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association is nearing its \$20 million fundraising goal to break ground on a memorial to Operation Desert Storm, *Military Times* reports.

The plan is for the Desert Storm monument to be completed in 2023, with its placement not far from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. President Barack Obama signed legislation authorizing a Desert Shield/Desert Storm memorial, and President Donald Trump signed legislation authorizing it to be built near the National Mall.

The government of Kuwait has committed \$10 million to the project, which will feature sand-colored stone sweeping around an elevated pool of water - a symbolic reference to Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf's "left hook" U.S. and coalition forces executed in their invasion of southern Iraq and liberation of Kuwait - along with quotes, bronze sculptures and carvings.

ndswm.org

Belgian border land grab

A Belgian farmer, bothered by a large stone standing in the path of his tractor, decided to move the stone. What he didn't realize was that he was moving a marker for the French-Belgian border, as the BBC reports. The result: Belgium grew and France contracted by about 7.5 feet.

"Instead of causing an international uproar, the incident has been met with smiles on both sides of the border," according to the BBC.

The marker stone dates to 1819, when the border was first delineated.

Dangerous debris

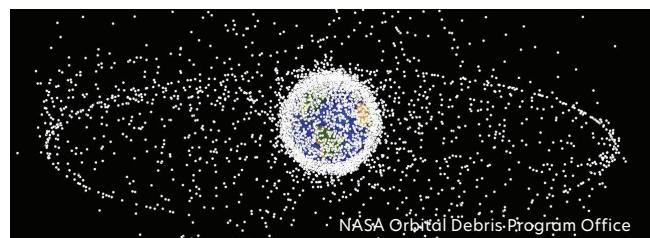
128 million Objects orbiting the earth that are at least a millimeter across

900,000+ Objects orbiting the earth that are one to 10 centimeters across

34,000 Objects orbiting the earth that are 10 or more centimeters across

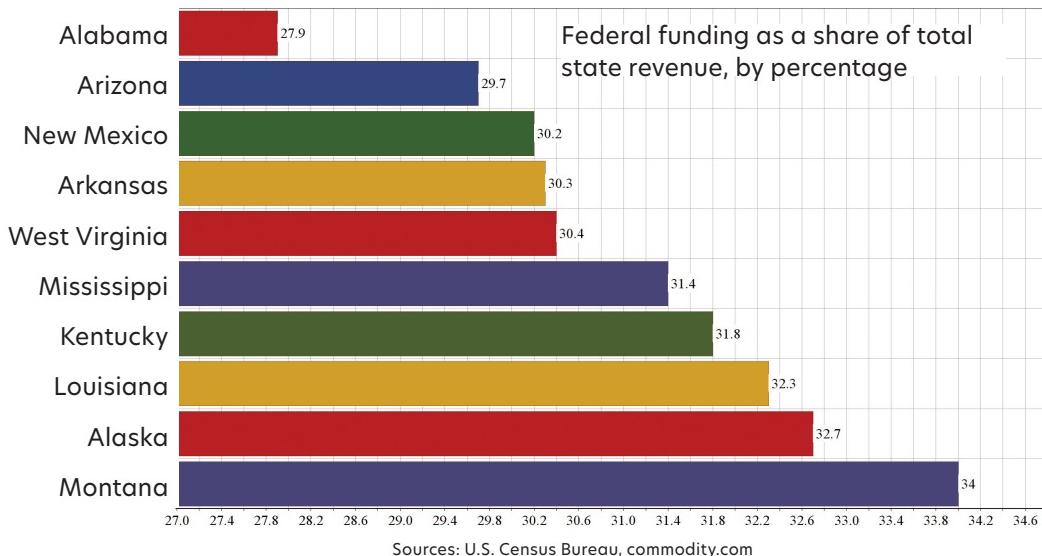
29,000 Objects orbiting the earth that are being tracked

Source: *The Economist*



NASA Orbital Debris Program Office

States most dependent on federal aid

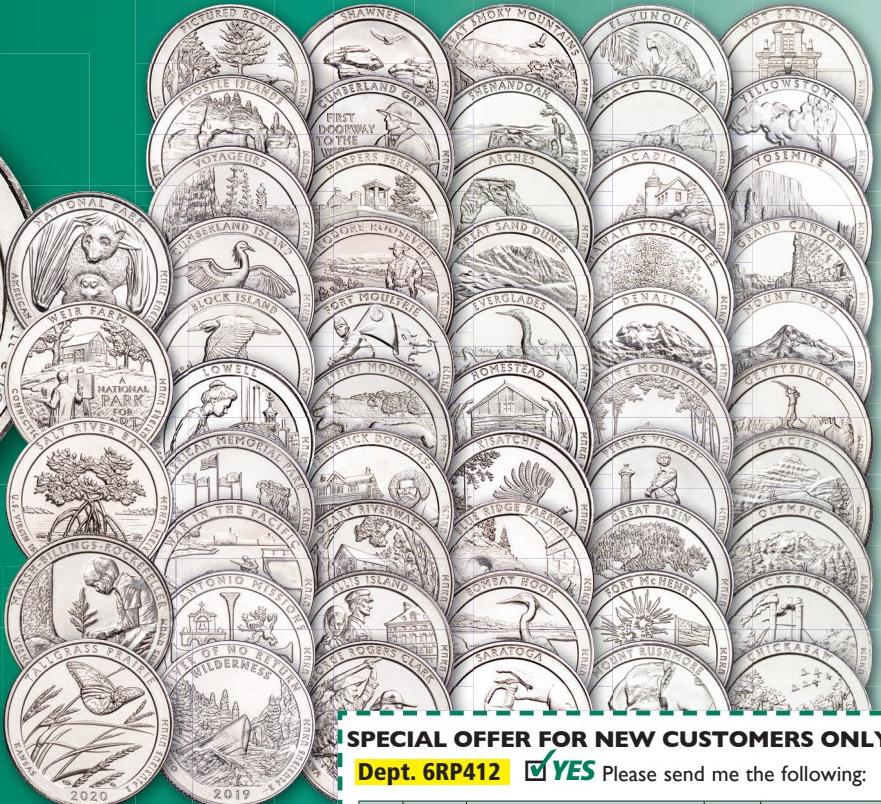




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Concurrent usage of TA, Chapter 1606 benefits

Q: I am currently serving in the Army Reserve in Kansas and was enrolled in an approved community-college nursing program. Not long ago, I heard about the Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve education benefit. May a student apply for Chapter 1606, receive a monthly housing allowance and obtain tuition assistance (TA) for core courses?

A: In the past, DoD did not authorize tuition assistance for classes for which a member also received Chapter 1606 benefits. But effective May 5, 2021, all qualifying Selected Reserve members may use tuition assistance and Chapter 1606 concurrently when enrolled in a program of education that is half-time or greater.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. askvalerie@legion.org

The queen's surprising possessions

Mental Floss recently reported on some of Queen Elizabeth's surprising possessions.

The list includes:

- Nearly half of the coastline of England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- All the swans on the River Thames
- All dolphins in British aquariums
- Two tortoises from the Seychelles
- 150,000 pieces of art
- Dozens of automobiles worth about \$10 million, including Range Rovers, Rolls-Royces and Bentleys
- A 530.2-carat diamond worth \$51 million - the world's largest clear-cut diamond
- Three island territories: the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey
- Four Guinness World Records, including the world's longest reigning queen, world's oldest reigning monarch, world's wealthiest queen, and person appearing on the currency of more sovereign countries than any other person
- The rights to all of Scotland's gold mines



Wikimedia Commons



Ageless bomber

Boeing began test-flying the B-52 airframe in 1952. Today, as the B-52 fleet begins to receive an updated engine package, Defense One reports that the workhorse bomber is primed to fly beyond its 100th birthday.

Air Force officials call the B-52's new engine fitting the biggest modernization program in the bomber's history. Defense One adds, "By the time the replacement is complete, the Stratofortress will have outlasted both of its current contemporaries, the B-1 Lancer conventional bomber and the B-2 stealth bomber. The new engines are intended to enable the B-52 to serve alongside the future B-21 Raider as the airborne leg of the nuclear triad into the 2050s."

When first built, the B-52 was supposed to be a high-altitude nuclear bomber, says Maj. Gen. Andrew Gebara, director of strategic plans, programs and requirements at Air Force Global Strike Command. "Then it became a low-altitude nuclear bomber. And then it became a high-altitude carpet bomber in Vietnam. And then it became a standoff cruise-missile shooter in Desert Storm. And then it became a precision-strike close-air-support platform in Afghanistan and Iraq. And now we're going to make it the first hypersonic shooter in the American inventory," he adds, referring to integration testing underway to fit the B-52 with the AGM-183A Air-Launched

Rapid Response Weapon.

Demand for bombers remains high. An Air Force press release cites recent B-52 deployments to Europe, Africa Command and Southern Command.

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B-52 sorties by mid-fiscal 2021

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DiFrancesco championed veterans, POW/MIA

Dominic DiFrancesco, 1991-1992 American Legion national commander, died Sept. 6 at 88.

A Korean War Navy veteran and 67-year member of American Legion Post 594 in Middletown, Pa., DiFrancesco spent 38 years as a federal employee, retiring as a plans and resource specialist. He told *The American Legion Magazine* in 1991, "My father handed me my Legion card the day I returned home after my discharge. My hometown of Steeltown, Pa., was always an American Legion town."

As national commander, DiFrancesco called for a VA budget that kept up with the needs of an aging veteran population and legislation to assist returning Desert Storm veterans. He also called for a full accounting of American POWs and missing in action.

In 1992, DiFrancesco called the nation's quest to repatriate its Vietnam POW/MIA's "a failure. Nineteen years after President Nixon declared that 'all of our courageous prisoners of war (have been) set free and



Photo by Ben Mikesell

(are) here back home in America,' 2,267 American families still live in a twilight zone of anxiety and uncertainty. The war is over, but their loved ones have not returned ... America is at peace, yet they have no peace."

Under DiFrancesco's leadership, American Legion membership reached 3,115,340 - the third-highest number in the organization's history. He was inducted into the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans

Affairs Hall of Fame in 2001.

Past National Commander Ronald F. Conley's friendship with DiFrancesco preceded their service as department commanders and continued through the years, despite living in different areas of the state.

"He truly was a Legionnaire's Legionnaire," Conley said. "He loved The American Legion, and he loved working for the veterans of our country."

- Steven B. Brooks

See Dominic DiFrancesco's "PNC Perspectives" video: legion.org/legiontv

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Strong signals from Tokyo

Japan's government is sending unmistakable signals to Taiwan and China about the dangers of a conflict over the island democracy.

"If a major problem took place in Taiwan, it would not be too much to say that it could relate to a survival-threatening situation," Japan's deputy prime minister Taro Aso said recently. "We need to think hard that Okinawa could be next. We are closely monitoring the situation."

An armed attack against a foreign country in a close relationship with Japan is seen as posing a clear risk of threatening Japan's survival, forcing it "to exercise its right of collective self-defense" and come "to the aid of an ally under attack," Reuters reports.

"I half-jokingly tell people, 'Order your Christmas presents now, because otherwise on Christmas Day, there may just be a picture of something that's not coming until February or March.'"

Scott Price, international president for UPS, on how supply-chain disruptions mean potential delays in retailers stocking everything from toys to clothes to video games



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How to combat inflation with your finances

There's been a lot of discussion about inflation as we've seen the economy rebound in 2021.

Traditionally, the government's fiscal and monetary actions — things like big-time spending and low interest rates — would lead to higher inflation. So it came as no surprise when year-over-year inflation was tracked at 5.4% in July, more than double the norm of the past two decades.

For nearly 40 years, inflation has been tame. But tame does not mean toothless. If I'd buried a million dollars in a briefcase when I graduated from West Point in 1988, rising prices or inflation would have eroded about 60% of my purchasing power — during a period of relatively light inflation.

Here are some key considerations as you look to inflation-proof your own finances:

Understand your personal inflation rate vs. CPI. Inflation is typically measured by what's known as the consumer price index (CPI), which measures the average change over time in the prices we pay for goods and services. Although the calculation is complex, keep in mind that it represents a weighted average of expenses. This is different from your personal inflation rate because your lifestyle, spending and savings habits are unique. As a starting point for your inflation-proofing efforts, consider using an online calculator to determine your personal inflation rate.

Plan for higher interest rates. Historically, higher interest rates come with higher inflation.

Remember those double-digit interest-rate CDs in

the '80s? Consider locking in historically low mortgage rates by refinancing and focus on eliminating variable-rate debts like credit cards before rates skyrocket.

Examine your mortgage. If you've already taken advantage of low interest rates, you might be tempted to ride out your mortgage, particularly because your principal and interest portion of the payment won't increase. However, a mortgage is likely your biggest expense, and less is more when it comes to cash-flow commitments.

Monitor short-term cash equivalents. Not long ago, the disparity between money market funds and traditional savings accounts was huge. That could happen again if inflation persists and rates rise. Don't get caught with cash equivalents not working as hard as they could be.

Keep on keeping on. This may not be a welcome message, but it deserves consideration. Wage levels are influenced by inflation. As long as your income increases with inflation, continuing to work can help you combat rising prices.

We all need a flexible game plan, and that includes sharpening our inflation-fighting tools. Next month, I'll look at options with respect to your portfolio.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. legion.org/usaa

10.07 million

Job openings in the United States

9.5 million

Unemployed people in the United States

570,000

Job openings exceeding unemployed Americans in mid-2021

Sources: Department of Labor, *The Wall Street Journal*

'Shrinkflation'

As NPR reports, "shrinkflation" is a tactic companies use to hide rising costs related to ingredients, packaging, labor and shipping by reducing the size or quantity of products sold while charging the same price.

"Consumers tend to be price conscious, but they're not net-weight conscious," consumer advocate Edgar Dworsky says. "They can tell instantly if they're used to paying \$2.99 for a carton of orange juice and that goes up to \$3.19. But if the orange juice container goes from 64 ounces to 59 ounces, they're probably not going to notice."

Common retail items subject to shrinkflation include toilet paper, cereal, snack chips, and other groceries and packaged consumables.



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The **Zoomer's** versatile design and 1-touch joystick operation brings mobility and independence to those who need it most.

If you have mobility issues, or know someone who does, then you've experienced the difficulties faced by millions of Americans. Simple tasks like getting from the bedroom to the kitchen can become a time-consuming and potentially dangerous ordeal. You may have tried to solve the problem with a power chair or a scooter but neither is ideal. Power chairs are bulky and look like a medical device. Scooters are either unstable or hard to maneuver. Now, there's a better alternative . . . the Zoomer.

My Zoomer is a delight to ride! It has increased my mobility in my apartment, my opportunities to enjoy the-out-of-doors, and enabled me to visit the homes of my children for longer periods of time. The various speeds of it match my need for safety, it is easy to turn, and I am most pleased with the freedom of movement it gives me.

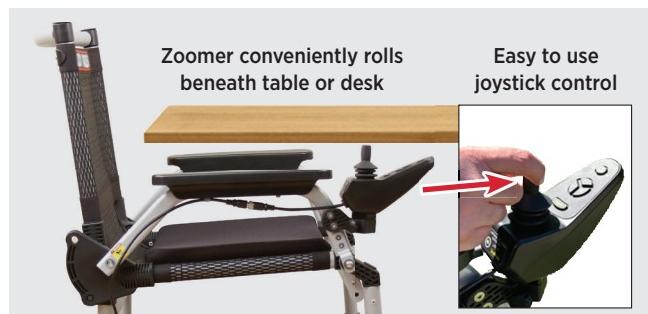
Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA

After just one trip around your home in the Zoomer, you'll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It's not



bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll right up to a table or desk—there's no need to transfer to a chair. Its sturdy yet lightweight aluminum frame makes it durable and comfortable. Its dual motors power it at up to 3.7 miles per hour and its automatic electromagnetic brakes stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to 8 miles on a single charge. Plus, its exclusive fold-able design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it's not in use.

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The Zoomer Chair is a personal electric vehicle and is not a medical device nor a wheelchair. Zoomer is not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. It is not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2021 Journey Health and Lifestyle



How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information online at legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are free.

Notices will remain online until the final day of the reunion. Upon submission, allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. Due to the large number of reunions, **The American Legion Magazine** will publish a group's listing twice a year.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206** or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are free.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.

Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your American Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

USAFSS/ESC, St. Augustine, FL, 1/20-23, Jay Johnson, (321) 537-7871

ARMY

84th & 62nd ECB (Korea), Branson, MO, 11/2-4, Mary Ellen Butkus Hart, (203) 644-4665, maryellenhart@optimum.net; **95th Evac Hosp (Da Nang, Vietnam)**, Plymouth, MA, 6/2-5, Terry Caskey, (828) 455-8278, seacruise@charter.net; **A Co 75th Inf Abn Rangers V Corps LRRPS & D/17 LRP**, Waco, TX, 3/25-26, Stan Jones, (317) 966-0645, stan6542@yahoo.com; **Korea (All Units)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 8/5-7, Christopher Murphy, (828) 539-0714, koreaveterans@gmail.com

MARINES

Marine Barracks (Sasebo, Japan), Las Vegas, 10/25-27, Bob McCarthy, (515) 274-9110, coach430@aol.com; **Nat'l Montford Point Marine Assn**, Shreveport, LA, 7/12-16, Ronald Johnson, (504) 202-8552, vice_president@montfordpointmarines.org

NAVY

Brownson DD 518/868, Savannah, GA, 2/28-3/3, Tom Holcombe, (218) 750-1533, ussbrownson1972@gmail.com; **Connole DE/FF 1056**, Warwick, RI, 10/5-9, Dave Neimeyer, (484) 378-2725, dave@neimeyer.org; **Fox DLG/CG 33**, San Diego, 4/28-30, Michael Hare, (419) 310-2958, mhare3362@gmail.com; **Von Steuben SSBN 632**, Jacksonville, FL, 3/24-27, Rick Wise, (843) 276-0899, ssbn632reunion@scrr.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Post 255, CA: Herman E. Ballestamon, James M. Cupit, Joseph Delasalas, Ralph O'Campo, Richard Real, Alfred E. Roys
Post 334, PA: James R. Carothers Sr., James R. Carothers Jr., Thomas J. Heenan, Ronald W. Higgins

Post 41, WV: Darrell Rotruck, Don Sanders, Don Smith

IN SEARCH OF

1st Avn Bde HQ (Can Tho, Vietnam, June 1968-June 1969), George Hines, gihines@yahoo.com

2nd Msl Bn 82nd Arty (Harvey Bks, Kitzingen, Germany, 1961-1963), Michael Detorie, (443) 825-6239

7th Aeriel Port Sqdn (Misawa AB, Japan, 1963-1966), Eddie Sellers, (208) 722-5964

72nd AEMS (Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, Aug 1964-Aug 1966), Tom Workman, (520) 237-4824, k0tw@cox.net

A Btry 4211th Opns Sqdn (Lockbourne AFB, OH, 1952-1955), Bob Skinner, (860) 489-7691, rskinner06790@gmail.com

A Btry 867th FA Bn (Neckarsulm, Germany, 1954-1956), James Degnan, (661) 294-0256, my4cam@comcast.net

B Btry 1/2 Field Arty (Baumholder, Germany, 1976-1978), Rick Van Buskirk, (989) 339-0367

B Co 1st Avn Bn 1st Inf Div (Phu Loi, Vietnam, Sept 1966-July 1967), John Andersen, (561) 632-8443, andersen.agency@gmail.com, longhorn77.net

C Co 34th Bn 39th Inf 9th Inf Div (Vietnam, Feb 1967), Robert Hartman, (315) 597-6584, suemesmithhartman@gmail.com

R&M Co 50th Sig Bn Co (Camp Sendai, Japan, 1953-1955), Richard Downey, (480) 423-9414, dickbonnie60@gmail.com

TAPS

Johnny F. Bracy, Dept. of Mississippi, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 2005-2013.

Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Dept. of Pennsylvania

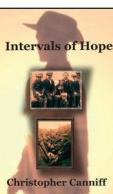
Nat'l Cmdr. 1991-1992, Dept. Cmdr. 1986-1987, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1984-1986, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1977, Nat'l Advisory Cmte. to the Nat'l Cmdr. Chmn. 1992-1993, Nat'l Advisory Cmte. to the Nat'l Cmdr. Vice Chmn. 1993-1994, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1985-1986, Nat'l Exec. Cmte.

Alt. Memb. 1980-1984, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Ex-Officio Memb. 1991-1992, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1984-1985, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Chmn. 1988-1989, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 1989-1991, Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Chmn. 1987-1988, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Cmte. Memb. 1993-1994, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Cmte. Chmn. 1991-1992, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Cmte. Chmn. 1992-1993, Nat'l Policy Coordination & Action Grp. Memb. 1990-1991, Nat'l Policy Coordination & Action Grp. Chmn. 1991-1992, Nat'l Policy Coordination & Action Grp. Vice Chmn. 1992-1993, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1977-1980, Nat'l Resolutions Subcmte. Memb. 1984-1986, Nat'l Veterans Planning & Coordination Cmte. 1988-1989 and Nat'l Veterans Planning & Coordination Cmte. Chmn. 1991-1992.

Michael A. Jones, Dept. of Oregon, Dept. Cmdr. 2015-2016, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2009-2011, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2015 and 2017-2019, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2011-2013 and Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Memb. 2016-2017.

John H. Skinner, Dept. of Michigan, Dept. Cmdr. 2005-2006, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2013-2015, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2013-2015, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1999-2000 and 2011-2013, and Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2011-2013.

Todd E. White, Dept. of Wyoming, Dept. Cmdr. 1994-1995, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1998-2002, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 2003-2004, Nat'l Advisory Cmte. to Nat'l Cmdr. Memb. 2007-2011, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1999-2002, Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Dept. Chmn. 2002-2003, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1997-1998, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmte. Memb. 2013-2016, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 2006-2013, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1989-1998, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1998-1999, and Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 2002-2003 and 2004-2006.

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My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I said I couldn't quit cold turkey.

IT'S NOT the minutes spent at the table that put on weight. It's the seconds.

I WAKE UP EARLY on Black Friday, so I can get online and watch videos of shoppers brawling.

THE DOCTOR asked why I returned her bill, unopened. She was the one who told me to avoid any upsets or stress.

AN AMERICAN traveling in Germany didn't know the language and felt lost. While crossing a street, she sneezed, and the traffic officer said, "Gesundheit." The girl threw her arms around his neck and cried happily, "You speak English!"

AS I HANDED my dad his 50th birthday card, he said, "You know, one would have been enough."

A POODLE and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" the collie suggests.

"I can't. I'm not allowed on the couch."

A TEACHER asked her class, "If there were 11 sheep in a field and six jumped the fence, how many would be left?"

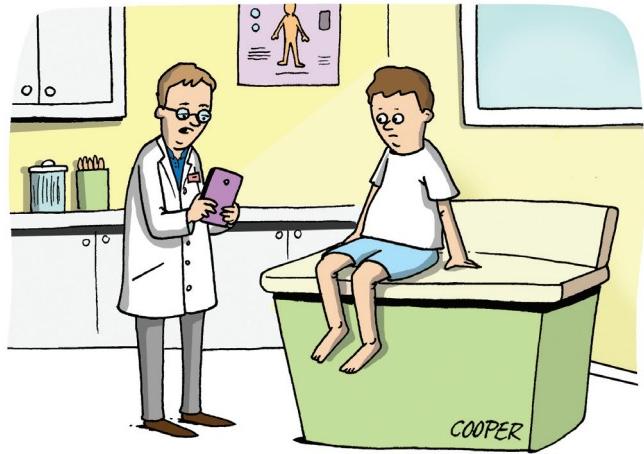
"None," a boy replied.

"Of course there would!" the teacher said.

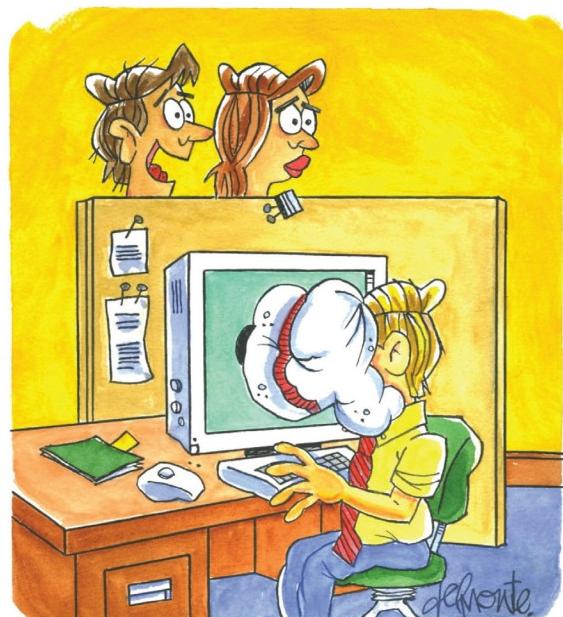
"No, ma'am, there wouldn't. You may know math, but you don't know sheep."

EVERYBODY KNOWS 40 is the new 30, but the police officer who gave me a speeding ticket couldn't be convinced.

"IT MUST BE WEIRD working at the FDA. One day you're approving a lifesaving vaccine, the next you're approving new s'mores-flavored Oreos." - Jimmy Fallon



"I'd like to see more salads in your social media feed."



"The airbag sensed he was going to sleep.
I love technology!"



"Maybe we should change it to 'Beware of Dog.'"

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